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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 10 ★ MARCH 6th, 1980 ★ 15th YEAR OF PUBLISHING

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The Case For A SALTWATER LICENSE
Part One
(Page 24.)

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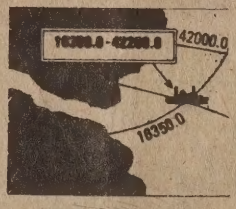

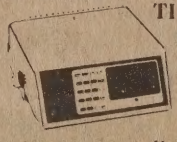

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BOATING

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A new concept in adult Boating Safety Education is being offered at Nassau County's Cow Meadow Park, Freeport, N.Y. on Monday evenings from 8 to 10 PM.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary qualified instructors are teaching the boating skills and safety course on a continuing year-round basis. A student may enter the 8 week course at any lesson without waiting for a new course to begin.

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This comprehensive course is given free of charge by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Student textbooks, charts and basic instruments are available at a modest cost. Sponsored by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-6.

For additional information and directions to Cow Meadow Park in Freeport, contact the park at 5[illegible]-546-1616.

****

Flotilla 13-2 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will give a nine lesson course on Boating skills and seamanship, beginning Wednesday, March 5 at Berner H.S., Carman Mill Road, Massapequa, N.Y. Classes will take place from 8 to 10 PM, continuing on consecutive Wednesdays. The course is being offered as part of the Massapequa School District Adult Education program and requires a registration fee of $6. Materials additional.

Flotilla 13-2 also will give a three-lesson course for young boatmen, beginning March 5, 8-10PM, at Berner High School. There is no registration fee and no charge for materials for the 10-16 year olds taking this course.

For additional information on either course, call 516-541-9838.

****

Follow-up to the Sewanhaka Power Squadron notice of classes in issue of 2-14-80.

"All courses other than the basic boating course given by Sewanhaka

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

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About the Cover—

A nice brace of striped bass such as these is something we can all look forward to in a few short weeks as the bass start their annual spring migration out of the Hudson River and Chesapeake Bay. *PHOTO BY PETE BARRETT*

COMING NEXT WEEK: Flounder Primer

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons, EDITOR
Fred Golofaro, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Rick Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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NEW BOOKS

NEW BASS BOOK TELLS ALL

For years, expert fishermen would try to guess what fish did and why. The answers they supplied to the "why" were often old wives' tales or the same trite and mostly untrue comments that were made because everyone was guessing—no one ever really got down to study the fish in their own environment. Jerry Gibbs, author of the book **Bass Myths Exploded**, published by David McKay Company, Inc., New York, did just this. An accomplished diver, Gibbs studied bass under all conditions for many years. The answers he has come up with on where bass really hide, why and how bass strike, the lures and lines that work best, effects of cold fronts, all make for a more successful and enjoyable fishing trip.

Contests & Tournaments

ANNOUNCING N.Y. SURF FISHING CONTEST

The contest was the brain child of Dave Karikas and John Fritz, was further developed by the High Hill Striper Club and the Faragut Striper Club, and then the finishing touches were made with the advice of Gateway Striper Club, Sound Surf, Nor'west Fishing Club, and the Striper Surf Club. The contest is ready to begin April 1, 1980 and there is a limited number of spots left for 1980. Surf fishing clubs or clubs with a substantial number of surf fishermen who are interested in participating should call one of the following people for more information. Please, only formally organized clubs. There is a fee for participation.

In New York City call: Frazier Dougherty, 212-925-7371. In Nassau, Barry Simon, 516-785-2404. In Suffolk, call: Bill Muller, 516-667-5344.

CLUB NEWS

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB

The Patchogue Fishing Club's new officers for 1980 are: President: Bob Cromeyn of Smithtown; 1st Vice Pres.: Tom Ganetis of Patchogue; 2nd Vice Pres.: Greg Maynard of West Sayville: Secretary: Cheryl Dippel of Patchogue; Treasurer: Joe Hernandez of Shirley, and Financial Sec'y.: Neil Van Ginborev of Patchogue.

FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB

The Farragut Striper Club's new officers for 1980 are as follows: President—Jim Sheridan; Vice-President—John Fritz; Sec'y.—Dennis Menahan; Treas.—Barry Bergmann. Board of Directors: Sal Cacavalle, Richard Brown, Ronald Amigus, Martin Atella and Sal Russo.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS

Want to join a good club for fishing and fun? Monthly fishing derbies, fishing trips, inter-club contests, trophies and prizes; dinner dance and picnic. The Freeport Atlantis Anglers are having a membership drive; family membership available. For information, call: Fuzzy Wengler, (516) 546-0965 after 6PM.

GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB

The Gateway Striper Club's new officers presided at the Annual Awards Dinner Dance held February 23 at the Baron DeKalb K of C. The 1980 Slate of Officers are: Dave Williams, President; Joey Augeri, Vice President; Jack Mendler, Treasurer; Chuck Nemser, Recording Sec.; Vin Reilly, Corresponding Sec.; Bob Lekowski and John Ohle, Recorders.

Surf Trophy Awards for the 1979 season were presented at the dinner-dance to:

Bass— Vinny Slikas, 42 lbs.; Joey Augeri, 33 lbs.

Bluefish: J. Moreno, 16 lbs.; J. Augeri, 16 lbs., and F. Dougherty, 16 lbs.

16 lbs., and F. Rannazzi, 15 lbs.

Weakfish—F. Rannazzi, 9 lbs., and F. Dougherty, 8½ lbs.

Most Points—Frazier Dougherty, 653; most Points Released: Joe Klosek, 15.

The Gateway Fellowship Award was presented to Ed Wolfe, President Emeritus.

The Gateway Striper Club announ-

ces that the Surfcaster will be displaying for sale his hot 1980 inventory at their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 13, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. in Fort Tilden, Building T-25. Prospective new members are welcome. The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at Fort Tilden, Bldg. 149, Gateway National Rec. area, Breezy Point, Rockaway, at 8:30 p.m. For information call: R. Turbin, 212-373-0295 (7:30 to 9:30 p.m.) or Frank Rannazzi, 212-NR 2-8908.

ATLANTIC ANGLERS

Atlantis Anglers held their Annual Award Dinner Dance January 12, at the Salty Bay Yacht Club. The following members won trophies:

Flounder and Weakfish—Don Wright. Fluke—Carmine Farese; Blue Shark—George Maisch; Mako Shark—Walter Stammel; Bluefish—D. Wright; Bonito—tied between C. Farese and M. Kaufman; Blackfish—Fuzzy Wengler; Striped bass—D. Wright, and Cod—John Oppenheimer.

The most Outstanding Fisherman of the Year was Don Wright. Special congratulations to the Associate members—Sandra Kost, Andy, Jennifer, and Timmy Caracciola.

We will hold a meeting March 25 at the Salty Bay Yacht Club, 180 Westside Ave., in Freeport. Anyone wishing to become a member, please contact Fuzzy Wengler, after 6PM, at (516) 546-0965.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS' CLUB NEWS

The following is the list of the Huntington Anglers' Club for 1980: Pres.—Capt. Bill "Packy" Collins; Vice Pres.—Ken Ducker; Rec. Sec'y—Bill Ricca; Corres. Sec'y.—Dan Marro; Treasurer—John Stone; Sgts. at Arms—John Kulju and Charles Tota.

Board of Directors: Captain John Tarlen, Bill Marsh, John Ambrosio, Dick Deasy.

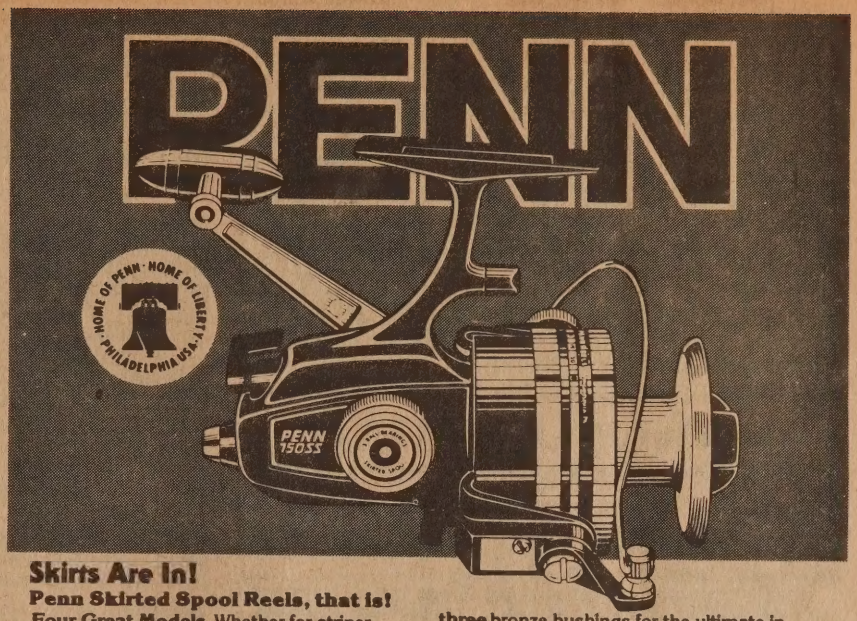
Trophies awarded to the following: Largest fish local waters: striped bass—A. DeNicola, 30.4; Bluefish—J. Ambrosio, 19.8. Blackfish—D. Marro, 6.13. Fluke—N. Campo, 7.10. Weakfish—R. Schneider, 10.14. Flounder—D. Urbanski, 2.7. Porgy—J. Becker, 2 lbs.

Junior Awards—Boys:
Bluefish: J. Schneider, 15.14; Flounder—B. Ricca, Jr., 1 lb.; Fluke—B. Schneider, 7.2; Weakfish—B. Schneider, 9.15; Porgy—Matt Fenza, 1.14 and Blackfish—M. Fenza, 9 lbs. Striped bass—E. Ambrosio, 26.4.

Junior Awards—Girls:
Weakfish—A. Ricca, 9.4; Flounder—D. Valentine, 1.1.

Intra-Club Derby Winners:
Weakfish—B. Tota, 10 lbs.; Bluefish—J. Ambrosio, 19.8; Bluefish—J. Ambrosio, 14.1 and Striped Bass—J. Schneider, 14.2.

Outstanding Catch: Bluefin tuna—E. Bracht, 175 lbs.



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Angler of the Year: John Ambrosio.
Sportsmanship Award: Bob Tota.

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The High Hill Striper Club is a "hard fishing" surf club. The Club is conservation conscious and proudly prohibits the sale of striped bass, bluefish and weakfish by its membership. The Club is seeking a few new members. For application for membership contact: Days - Tom Fitzsimmons (516) 627-1477; nights: Larry Dos Santos (10PM-11PM), (516) 536-8523.

Just how good was bottom fishing in the long ago? I'm sure many of today's fishermen wonder about it. Some fellows who write me agree without hesitation that it was better, and then again, others want to know just how much better it really was.

Before we get further into this, though, let me say that not every fishing day was good. Regardless of what

PORGY FISHING

you may have been told, we didn't "murder" the fish every time we went out. But I will say that, everything being equal, the results of our average bottom fishing trips were better than they are today.

When bottom fishing during those days, no one to my knowledge was ever skunked. Even the first-timer could expect success; perhaps nowhere near as much as the experienced sinker bouncer, but there was always something in the bucket at the end of the day. Ling and whiting were no problem to the beginner; but when it came to fluke, the rapid-fire porgy, or the cagey blackfish, the experienced fisherman always fared better. Which, of course, is the way it is today—there's no substitute for experience. Even cod didn't pose much of a problem because most winters there were more than enough to go around.

But lest you think that today's fishing is all bad and can't compare to yesteryear, let me say that last November I was blackfishing on the Capt. Clark II out of Hampton Bays and I actually quit fishing several times in order to give myself a rest. I admit those good-sized blackfish and big sea porgies we hit into that day had me pooped. The fishing was just as good as during the days of my youth. Only back then I didn't find it necessary to rest. I guess I'm getting old all right.

Take porgy fishing, for instance.

There was a spell from about 1966 to 1970 when local fishermen couldn't catch a porgy for love or money. Maybe you caught some—but I didn't. And I tried all the best old-time porgy-producing spots, from the Tin Can Grounds to offshore Sea Bright. Wrecks that used to produce super porgy fishing—like the Iberia off Long Beach—were barren. Even sea bass, that mainstay of the party boat fishing fleet, were few and far between.

I suppose there were many reasons for this, and I suppose, too, that I could recite a few, but I have neither the energy nor the inclination to open that can of worms. But when I tried so desperately in those days to catch porgies and drew a zip, I would often stand at the rail and think back to the excellent porgy fishing we enjoyed in the long ago. I was indeed saddened by my memories, for I do love to catch porgies.

But good porgy fishing has truly enjoyed a comeback these past several years, but whether it is as good as it was way back when, is a point of conjecture. Most old-timers will tell you: no, it isn't as good. However, don't hold that against us. It is a known fact that we fellows jealously guard our memories of the good all-around bottom fishing we enjoyed in the long ago and will absolutely not allow anyone to sully them.

But anyway, I'll let you decide by relating some of the porgy experiences I've had.

Much of my party boat porgy fishing was done aboard those vessels which left from Sheepshead Bay or Canarsie. Even then, as you made your way along Emmons Avenue or walked through Canarsie's Golden City Amusement Park carrying your rod and tackle bag, you immediately became the target of raucous cries from party boat mates coaxing you to board their boats if you wanted to enjoy the best fishing.

I recall stopping before Fred Wrege's Effort III one summer morning and inquiring from the mate how good the porgy fishing was going. His reply put it in a nutshell: "Porgies by the bushel and porgies by the ton! Get aboard and catch your share." And that's the way it was!

It was so easy to catch porgies in those days, it bordered on the ridiculous. The supply seemed endless—from Long Island and northern New Jersey areas, the commercial catch alone exceeded thirty-five million pounds! Lord only knows how much the New England commercials caught that could be added to those millions of pounds.

If you waited for a bite, you were out of luck. It was necessary to place your rig on bottom in such a manner that no slack needed to be reeled in. Then all you did was lift and you were good for at least one porgy. Double-headers were common all day long. If you were foolish enough to wait for a bite, it was quite likely you'd find your hooks stripped.

There seemed no end to the porgy's willingness to commit suicide. Come June and there they were! There wasn't an offshore wreck or mussel bed that didn't play host to untold numbers of scrappy, rod-bending sea porgies.

Cries of "Let's go home!" echoed over the porgy grounds as arm-weary fishermen racked their rods and commenced the task of cleaning their catch. Usually two hours' fishing time was enough to satisfy even the most avid meat fisherman. I know we seldom fished porgies past noontime. If we were close to the fluke grounds, we would make a few drifts to settle the pool. It was either that or have the passengers sort through thousands of porgies to find the largest—which would usually be only a matter of ounces, anyway—so alike were porgies from one school.

Most porgies averaged a pound apiece, but at any time you might hit a spot that yielded two-pounders. I recall one day fishing the Tin Can Grounds when all the porgies averaged a pound or a little better, and then returning to the same area the next day and catching few fish under two pounds. Once you located a spot holding two pounders, you were assured of a good day's sport.

Some wrecks along the New Jersey Coast south of Sea Bright seemed always to contain porgies around three pounds—sometimes larger—especially in early August. Most Sheepshead Bay skippers knew just when to fish those particular wrecks. Few local skippers could beat those particular fishermen when it came to porgy

Matt and one of his "almost like yesteryear" porgies.

fishing on the New Jersey wrecks.

But all in all, most skippers found it unnecessary to venture much beyond the Tin Can Grounds and the mussel beds on the black-can side of Ambrose Channel. I remember the old Rose R II out of Canarsie had a mussel bed close in to Sandy Hook which we would porgy fish only in September. It would never produce before then. Don't ask me why—I don't know. But when the porgies settled in on this piece of bottom, it was truly wild fishing.

Of course, there were the famous overnight trips made by some Sheepshead Bay party boats to Atlantic City and close by areas. These were very popular with the fellows. You left the Bay around midnight and arrived at your destination around six the following morning. This arrival time was governed by the weather (strong wind from the south meant slower progress), although there was no real danger to those boats that made the trip. Some of those able craft, like the Au Revoir, were converted millionaire's yachts and were 180' long!

The fare for these trips was five dollars and if you couldn't catch fish down around Atlantic City, you must have spent your time in the cabin. If memory serves me correctly, there was a pool for sea bass, one for blackfish, and one for porgies, and I believe the entry fee for each was fifty cents.

Most fellows, though, were interested in the huge sea bass to be caught on the practically virgin wrecks, but occasionally one of the wrecks would yield monstrous sea porgies. I've caught my share of big porgies over the years, but never have I caught so many as I have on those trips. I've seen five pounders, although I never caught one; but on most trips there were plenty of three pounders for everyone. And don't let anyone tell you differently: a three pound porgy is big!

But as good as this fishing was, most of the porgy chasing was done close to home, and usually on the aforementioned Tin Can Grounds.

(Incidentally, do you know how the Tin Can Grounds got its name? It wasn't from the discarding or dumping of used tin cans in the area as many fishermen seem to think. Many years ago, the Navy used to hold their destroyers—tin cans—in the area for a period of time because the rough mussel bottom offered good anchorage. There the "tin cans" awaited notification of their turn to proceed to the Navy Yard for maintenance work.)

But anyway, as I say, most porgy fishing was done on the Tin Can Grounds and it didn't take long before fish were coming over the rail. We always anchored first and allowed the boat to settle. Then, and only then, was crushed skimmer chum ladled overside into the tide by one of the mates.

We never drifted first in order to locate the fish: we anchored and let them come to us. It was necessary to do this because if you drifted first and hit into fish, the dropping of the anchor, or starting up of the diesel, was sure to alert the spooky porgy that all was not right. Even the dropping of a heavy object on deck would put a halt to the fishing and nothing you could do would bring the porgies back. It was then always necessary to locate a new school—and remember to be quiet! Incidentally, that skimmer chum would on occasion attract stripers—some up to thirty-five pounds.

I always enjoyed porgy fishing—still do, of course; but I recall the times when many fishermen wouldn't bother with them. These were the fellows who found porgy fishing too hectic for their tastes. I could never see it that way myself, but to each his own.

Anyway, that's the way it was when porgy fishing in the long ago. I know there are many old-timers out there who can add their experiences to mine. If so, or if you have any comment at all, drop me a line at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946. I'll be glad to hear from you and we'll go over it together.

THE RIGHT WAVELENGTH?

(Continued from page 17)

foot, the following data might be of interest to you. The data was gotten as a result of dynamometer tests in shoal waters conducted by U.S. Navy.

Height of Breaker:	Pressure Per Sq. Ft. (lbs.):
4 ft.	406
6 ft.	3000
10 ft.	4562
20 ft.	6200

Simple arithmetic will reveal the enormous potential force of water which can strike your boat at sea with strong winds prevailing. If by chance you and your boat wind up on the beach in the surf zone you can easily see why it is the finish for your boat. Piece by piece, your yacht will be broken up into little pieces by the force of exploding and pounding water. This situation has occurred many times on Long Island.

Next Week: Part II. Groundswells and estimating the dangers of approaching waves.

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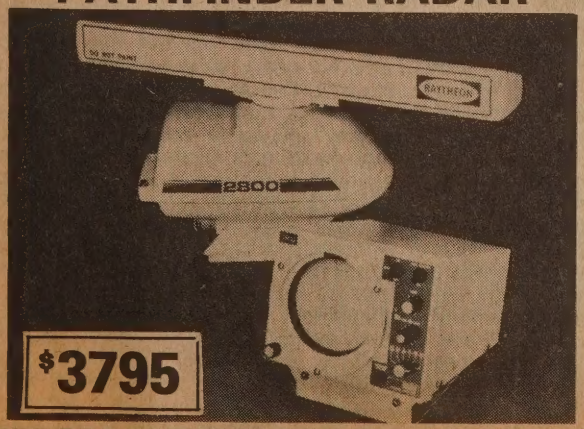

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FISH TALK with William A. Muller

STRIPED BASS UPDATE

BRIEF LOOK BACK AT THE 1970s. Now that the decade of the Seventies has come to a close, everyone seems bent on examining the music, history movies, politics, economics, and everything else about the last ten years. Perhaps, then, it is fitting that we render the same respect to the striped bass. It is well necessary to point out that the period between 1950 and 1970 produced more good to excellent year classes of striped bass than the entire period between 1900 and 1950. Thus, going into the late 1960s there were a lot of bass around of various sizes. In short, bass fishing was good. Then in 1970, the Chesapeake produced the biggest year class of striped bass ever and this year class was only approached in importance by that of 1964. Today, there are precious few of that 1964 year class left, but those that remain are in the fifty-plus size category. The fish from the 1970 year class will be in the mid to high thirties in this fishing year of 1980. There are too few of these as well since natural attrition, predation, and harvesting have reduced that year class substantially. Since 1970, the year classes can rate only a poor for the most part except for 1974 which may rate a fair—depending upon your point of view. Thus, there are few little fish available along the migration route of the Chesapeake fish. This has caused many to worry that the stocks of bass are in great difficulty. I believe that the stocks are down and perhaps while they remain in this condition there should be some emergency management methods to prevent excessive depletion of the stocks. However, I do not believe that striped bass are in danger of extinction, as some have suggested. I am bolstered in that belief by recent technological advancements that would make it possible to re-establish an East Coast stock of bass even if every bass that currently swims in the Atlantic were to become extinct. Although I believe that we are on the precipice of a large natural Chesapeake year class, it is comforting to know that technology can help prevent an irreversible phenomena.

CHESAPEAKE FISH THE KEY! It is clear that the Chesapeake fish stocks provide the bulk of the fish that are caught by commercial and sport fishermen along the coast. However, that does not mean that the Hudson stock is not an important stock. There are many ways for the impact of a brood stock to be felt in the natural world as we have pointed out many times in this column. We feel that the Hudson fish may provide vital genetic information to the overall Atlantic population in addition to providing the bulk of the action for bass in the western part of Long Island Sound and at some times of the year in New York Bight as well. Nonetheless, for most of us it is the migrating Chesapeake fish that we catch and thus, the success of Chesapeake year classes are the key to our bass fishing successes or failures.

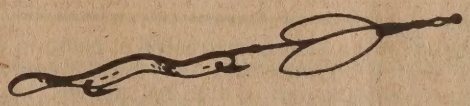
INDICES CALCULATED. In recent decades, scientists have kept records of the success of each year's reproduction in the hope of accumulating data that may help to explain why reproduction success is so varied. Perhaps there is a pattern that can be gleaned from these data as they accumulate. Typical of fisheries, and human life in general, there is a great deal of interest in striped bass research today because the stocks of the major spawning grounds are very much lower than they were just five years ago. At the beginning of this decade, there were far fewer people interested in such research because the stocks were high and striped bass research was not perceived as a "hot" area. The pattern repeats and we recall a major research effort on fluke that was abandoned as soon as a few good year classes began showing up. We hope that should the bass stocks grow again that a research interest will not wane. Striped bass, for all that they have been exaggerated to be, still represent the only inshore species that grows large enough to be considered as a real trophy. Thus, commercially, since it has a vast market appeal and value, and recreationally, the species is important to the seaboard states of the mid-Atlantic region and New England. The index numbers are calculated on a basis of catch per unit effort which is a standard barometer in the field. In this case, fifty-six sites in the Chesapeake complex have traditionally been sampled with a seine net. It is believed that the more young fish that are successfully hatched, the greater will be the number that appear in the seine samples. Basically, this is sound reasoning although there are some possibilities for misinterpretation—which we will not get into at this time. Nonetheless, with all the limitations considered, if the sampling is repeated for enough years and in a consistent manner, then the data that is accumulated will be reasonably accurate as a measure of spawning success. We have index numbers for the Chesapeake from 1954 until 1979.

MAJOR YEAR CLASSES. The numbers show that there were good year classes in 1956 (15.2), 1958 (18.1), 1961 (14.4) 1962 (12.2), 1964 (23.5), 1966 (12.4), 1970 (26.8). In addition, 1968 (10.2) and 1971 (11.8) weren't too bad either. Since that time, the only bright spot in the picture has been 1974 when an index of 10.1 was registered. Although that does not rate as a great year, it is substantially better than 1972 (6.9), 1973 (9.0), 1975 (6.7), 1976 (4.9), 1977 (4.9), 1978 (8.4), and 1979 (4.2). It should be pointed out that the value of 4.2 for 1979 is only preliminary and we have been informed that it is likely that the figure will be adjusted upward. However, we do not know how much higher the final value will be except that scientists tell us that it was not a good year and thus, we can only hope for an upward adjustment of perhaps a point or two.

HAPPENED TWICE BEFORE. I have pointed out in this column that dramatic downturns in striped bass stocks have occurred at least twice before. That is, such events may have also occurred prior to the late 1880s, but we have no real way of evaluating that reality since little data on the matter was kept. We do know that these stocks were in bad shape in the latter part of the last century and then again in the 1930s. Thus, we have further evidence that the recent down-turn is not a great cause for alarm, but rather may be just part of the natural ups and downs of striped bass cycles. However, it is only fair to point out that some experts have pointed towards increased pollution on the spawning grounds and increased harvesting by both sport and commercial interests over the years as additional factors to be superimposed on the normal down portion of the cycle and thus may accelerate and prolong the valley we are in. Then, too, others have pointed out that the success of spawning is not nearly as dependent upon the number of adult spawning fish as it is on environmental conditions. Scientists tell us that relatively few fish can produce very large year classes if conditions favor it. Fortunately, with many scientists currently investigating or planning to investigate in the near future such topics as levels and effects of spawning of pollutants, weather conditions, other water quality phenomena, PCBs, potential mixing of coastal subgroups, physiology and adaptiveness of the species, and many other ideas, we may soon get answers that will help to develop a comprehensive management plan for striped bass. Of course, there already exists a citizens advisory board that has been working very hard to develop and implement a meaningful interim plan. Regrettably, there have been many problems and some of the dedicated citizen participants have been frustrated by these problems. Still, one of these days we will have a good

management plan for bass.

HUDSON FISH. The Department of Environmental Conservation has also begun to evaluate striped bass spawning in the Hudson River and we have index figures for the years 1976 through 1979. It is not possible to equate the index numbers for the Hudson and the Chesapeake since the sampling methods and other differences in approaches render the data not totally compatible. For example, the Hudson index value for 1976 was 17.65; for 1977 it was 39.72, and for 1978, it was 41.8 and for 1979, it was 5.02. The New York State DEC uses eighteen sample sites in the Lower Hudson. Okay, what do the numbers mean. At first glance, if we didn't understand that techniques of the study were different from the one done in the Chesapeake, we might believe that reproduction in the Hudson River exceeded that in the Chesapeake, but this is not the case. The Hudson River stock is smaller than the Chesapeake and, therefore, it isn't likely that more young bass can be produced in the Hudson than in the Chesapeake complex; although it is possible. However, the numbers do indicate that striped bass in the Hudson have been more successful—relatively speaking—in reproduction than their cousins down south. Thus, Hudson River striped bass have had a series of very good year classes. According to DEC officials, who are deeply involved in the study of Hudson bass, the best of recent year classes was the 1973 spawn, followed by 1975, and then 1978. Now, we only have index numbers since 1976 and, therefore, one can only imagine how large the numbers are for 1973 and 1975. Consider that it takes about three years for a good year class to impact the fishery and we can begin to understand current bass availability as well as perhaps predict abundance for the future: at least for the western Sound. At the present time, there are quite a few teen-sized bass around in the western Sound and these are 1973 fish. There have also been good numbers of fish in the six to eight pound range and these are fish hatched in 1975. The fish from the 1978 year class, however, have not yet made a significant impact on the fishery and will not until 1981. Thus, we can be reasonably confident that there will be good fishing for striped bass in New York Bight and the western portions of Long Island Sound at least until the middle 1980s. A good number of cow-sized fish should also be available into the early 1980s with plenty of schoolies. Perhaps we should direct our bass fishing towards the western Sound rather than the South Shore for the years to come.



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On February 1, I was privileged to attend the annual meeting of the New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Scott Simons and I flew up to Utica to participate in a panel discussion of the saltwater fishing license, along with Lou Rodia (Cape May, N.J. Publicity Director), Dick Stroud (Sport Fishing Institute) and Dave Green (substituting for Tony Taormina as a representative of the DEC).

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

American Fisheries Society Meeting

Dave Green was a little embarrassed at being in the position of having to substitute for Tony Taormina (bedded down with the flu) at the last minute, as he certainly isn't one of the stronger advocates of a license within the Department. Nevertheless, he did make the most obvious point in favor of a saltwater sport fishing license: it will provide political clout with which to go to Albany for improvements in the Marine District. Dave also noted that New York would push for reciprocity with neighboring states. That is one of the sticky points involved with saltwater licensing, as there is presently a great deal of fishing done across state lines. Connecticut anglers fish the Long Island side of the Sound on a daily basis during the summer, and the vast majority of boats fishing The Race are from Connecticut—though it's officially New York waters. At one point near Fisher's Island, the boundaries of New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island meet, though I doubt if many boaters could tell you just where that is. Metropolitan New York and New Jersey fishermen regularly fish across state lines without ever thinking a thing about it. All that will change with a saltwater license and it's a thorny issue that will have to be quickly resolved.

Lou Rodia is as opposed to a saltwater license as any man I know, and certainly was a good choice to present the "anti, under any circumstances" position. Lou made a point which I also emphasized strongly to the basically freshwater-oriented audience: that the owners of freshwater fishing, and hunting, licenses are the ultimate users. He noted that he has been buying such licenses for years and is happy to do so because the freshwater fish, and the game, are being managed solely for his benefit. That is not the case in saltwater, and there is no indication that the DEC is even thinking in that direction.

Lou went on to provide some background information about the successful fight he and others in New Jersey carried on to defeat a saltwater licensing proposal there. Not only was the license proposal shelved, but it was specifically prohibited in the language of the bill which created the New Jersey Marine Council last year. Of course, the legislature could repeal that provision of the bill at any time—but the power exhibited by the sportsmen opposed to licensing last year has effectively laid that issue to rest in New Jersey for some time to come. Lou noted that a state survey had come up with figures of 1,600,000 residents and 1,200,000 non-residents who fish at least once in saltwater during the year. If even ten percent of these people (presumably, all casual fishermen) were to give up the sport because of licensing, the economic effect would be significant.

Rodia insisted that it isn't necessary to have a license in order to mobilize fishermen to act in their own best interests. He said that his experience proves that the saltwater license is becoming easier to defeat all the time, and he would like to see state conservation authorities join forces with sportsmen to push as hard for other funding.

Dick Stroud, Executive Vice-President of the Sport Fishing Institute, insisted that saltwater licensing is an idea whose time has come—or is imminent. He feels that marine anglers must be counted in order to get their share of the resources. In order to encourage such licensing, the Sport Fishing Institute has written a model bill which would provide Federal standards for such licenses and impose a Federal license on states which don't adopt their own within a time period after the legislation is passed. In a future column I'll discuss this proposed legislation in detail; but it should be noted that though this model bill has been around for a year, no legislator has yet introduced it. However, Dick Stroud indicated that he was confident it would soon gain sponsors.

Even those very much opposed to Stroud's position on this matter should understand the frustrations he operates under in Washington. As often noted in this column, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has assumed a very negative attitude toward sport fishing. Indeed, at a recent meeting, NMFS Director Terry Leitzell told Stroud, in effect, that NMFS isn't going to change that attitude unless the sport fishing community puts an intolerable burden of public opinion on them. As Stroud sees it, that intolerable burden of public opinion will develop when sportsmen start paying license fees to fish in saltwater.

Some interesting questions came from the floor after the discussion. Sherry Allen, long time legal backbone of the Nassau County Fish and Game Council, backed up some of my comments about lack of DEC support for marine conservation measures and indicated his continuing opposition to a New York license. Pete Horn, of East Rockaway, noted that the basic question of the sportsman is "What am I getting for that license?"—and felt that the pro-licensing panelists hadn't answered that question to his satisfaction.

Most of the audience was composed of scientists with a freshwater background who can't understand why saltwater fishermen are so reluctant to accept the same sort of license they've been living with in freshwater all their lives. It was to this group, and that feeling, that I addressed my presentation. Hopefully, after this lively panel discussion, there is a greater understanding of the saltwater situation among New York's fishery biologists. I'm under no illusion that the tide has been turned by this one meeting, but at least there may be a little more feeling upstate for what is going on in the Marine District.

An illustration of just how far we have to go was provided by the papers presented at the meeting. Of the twenty-two papers discussed, there was not one single study involving saltwater! This can't be entirely blamed on the lack of a saltwater license, as many of these papers were sponsored by universities—and even the American Museum of Natural History. Yet, while considerable attention was paid to the food habits of the redfin pickerel in Woodbury Creek; the effects of removing spawning adults on growth in a white sucker; the comparative ecology of three species of dace in the Allegheny River system; the status of the bitterling in southern New York; and diet overlap in two sympatric dace, there was not a word about a marine species.

I'm sure that all of the studies made are of importance and will add to man's understanding of freshwater ecology. However, with striped bass declining and the possibility existing that the weakfish could, once again, virtually disappear—it seems strange that the important marine environment could be so neglected. Hopefully, the panel discussion will help direct some thought to the problems in our saltwaters, and with Phil Briggs (of the Marine District) as president, perhaps the New York Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will focus some attention on our critical marine problems.

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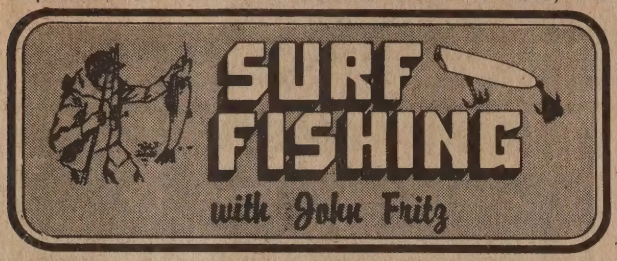

PROSPECTS FOR 1980

Although most fish abide by pre-determined patterns, each fishing season has its surprises. Occasionally, a school of fish will linger in an area longer than normal providing easy pickings for those anglers aware of their presence. Unfortunately, the opposite is more likely to be the case: when the expected run never materializes or, if it does, the quantity of fish or their length of stay leaves much to be desired. During the past season when the latter conditions prevailed almost exclusively, my oft repeated comment to Bill was, "Don't worry, something will turn up before the year is finished." How wrong I was!

Sure, there were bright spots in an otherwise mediocre season, but word of their happenings was greeted with lukewarm enthusiasm and a reluctance to abandon the normal routine for different and often more distant locations. The price of a gallon of gas was a factor, but habit and the expectation that the fish would comply with their pre-determined habits was a mistake which I vow not to repeat at the end of each season.

A serious surfman cannot sit back and wait for news of the unexpected to occur and then hope to share in the action. A review of past seasons events should be made and a loose plan for the upcoming year can be followed, but with an ear tuned to reports of good fishing in areas not normally included in one's proposed plan of action. Any predictions on surf fishing in the approaching season must be based on information gleaned from the past, but most successful fishermen are aware of the variable character of the species we seek and are willing to change their habits to conform to the unexpected presence of fish in unfamiliar locations or under differing conditions. This is especially true when the species sought are as unpredictable as striped bass, bluefish or weakfish.

Striped bass are the first species to arrive in our waters as the warming sun of early spring renews life in the seemingly barren sea. The coves and flats of western Long Island Sound will be the first areas to receive this infusion of "Numero Uno" of the surf-caught species. Anglers unwilling to wait can jump the gun and journey to the shores of the Hudson River or work the hot water discharge of LILCO's Northport power plant and the beaches east to Crabmeadow. Fishing bottom using marine worms is often the most productive methods, but artificials such as swimming plugs, bucktails, WhipTails and occasionally, small poppers will account for a goodly amount of these generally small fish.

Several good year classes of Hudson River fish coupled with reports of great fishing during the fall in waters inhabited by this population should ensure a fine spring run of small to medium bass in most areas of the Sound east to Port Jefferson plus the waters of the lower New York Harbor in and around Staten Island.

In years past bottom fishing for school bass in South Shore locations such as Point Lookout and Cedar Beach began in mid-April. Although recent years has seen a serious decline in this type of fishing, the prospects for the coming season show a glimmer of hope for anglers familiar with these sandy beaches.

While the extent of this South Shore bass run is doubtful, early May should witness the arrival of another much sought after gamester: the weakfish. The waters of Fire Island Inlet and the nearby State Channel will be lined with anglers. Most will be using assorted soft rubber lures such as Jelly Worms and plastic shrimp while others will continue to use the more conventional bucktails or five inch deep swimming plugs.

While the arrival of weakfish sustains the interest of South Shore fishermen, larger bass begin arriving in the western harbors of Long Island Sound. Hempstead, Cold Spring and Huntington Harbors saw an impressive number of good sized bass taken last year on small swimming plugs preceded by a white feather teaser. For those so inclined, chunks of mackerel, which were prevalent well into June over large areas of the Sound, fished on the bottom can produce bragging sized stripers.

Towards the end of May the pace and extent of surf fishing has increased greatly. Small bluefish should swarm into South Shore waters where they can be taken by surfmen using small tins and popping plugs. Beaches adjacent to the inlets are normally the first areas to receive these hard-fighting fish. Montauk Point presumably will have the first decent bass on the beach by now; in all likelihood taken on a Rebel or RedFin floater while weakfish moving west along the North Fork should reach the Huntington area to give competition to the striped bass seizing five inch Rebels and teasers. One location which will be the scene of excellent action is the Shinnecock Canal where expectant fishermen will line the bulkhead waiting to intercept the masses of weakfish heading through the locks into Peconic Bay.

In June the fishing will reach it's spring peak with all species present in varying numbers while the momentum will slowly diminish during the month of July into what is commonly referred to as the "Summer Doldrums." Large bass can be taken along the South Shore, from Breezy Point, where sand worms are the prime bait, to the Gilgo-Cedar area where mackerel chunks or eels have accounted for many nice fish in the past. The Moriches area and beyond, where sand worms fished along the beaches west of Ditch Plains, again attract the passing migrants. Bass will also be solidly entrenched in the North Shore harbors of Nassau and western Suffolk where they can be taken on either bunker or mackerel baits or with the proven plug/teaser combination.

If the past year's pattern continues, weakfish will provide fast-paced action for anglers disdaining the use of bait, although sand worms fished from a fishfinder rig in areas such as Democrat Point have been deadly in previous seasons. Rubber lures such as the Eelworm, WhipTails and plastic worms, along with the time-tested swimming plugs will take a good share of weaks from the South Shore inlets; the north side of Montauk from Jones Reef, Shagwong or Culloden's Point and the North Shore beaches particularly the restricted use shores of Southold, Miller Place, and Asharokan.

Small to medium bluefish will swim into Long Island Sound and even though it will be mostly boat action, surfmen plying the beaches adjacent to inlets such as the Nissequogue or Mt. Sinai can enjoy brisk activity at daylight until the fish are dispersed by the increasing boat traffic.

Generally the latter part of July and all of August is a time when hard-working surfmen, suffering swarming insects and muggy temperatures, work the quiet surf and backside areas with swimming plugs from dusk to dawn seeking bass and weakfish. The South Shore inlets, in particular Jones and Fire Island, will produce a few fish for diligent anglers; while bait fishermen will continue to pick fish from the ocean beaches, with possible fast action during periods of stiff southerly winds. Small bluefish should sustain interest during daylight hours when they chase sand eels within the reach of anglers slowly retrieving tin along the bottom. North Shore casters are advised to either speed up the retrieve or employ popping plugs with the chrome finish being favored by many.

With the gradual passing of summer, the cooling temperatures of September will awaken the appetites of resident fish. This arousal is heightened by any storm

lashing the coast. When easterly winds pound the Island, Montauk Point is the place to be for the fish which have been lying off the beach, accessible only to boatmen, are often lured into the white water where casters willing to brave the elements finally get an opportunity so long denied them. If there is any one location on Long Island to be at from the latter part of September to the first half of October, Montauk is the place. From North Bar to the Light, bass, blues, and weakfish are almost guaranteed to knowledgeable fishermen. The rocky ledges under the southside bluffs as far as Ditch Plains are a better bet for those specifically seeking bass, while blitz type fishing for bluefish is often found along the sandy beaches as far west as Shinnecock. Closer to the city, flurries of action will break out in waters west of the ocean inlets as autumn gales flush vast quantities of bait from the bays.

In the weeks to come, teen blues should be riding herd on bunker schools in most North Shore harbors, particularly Cold Spring and Hempstead, while blues coupled with weakfish are often to be found harassing these same hapless baitfish deep in Jamaica Bay or in the State Channel behind Jones Beach. Boat traffic once again is detrimental to this type fishing, therefore, those fishing the early AM or nighttime tides enjoy the greatest success. Snagging and swimming the live bunker is the most productive method, but some rewards can be gained by using large, white plugs similar to the Atom 40 or Super Strike swimmers.

Mid-October will find many bait fishermen, using bunker chunks or eels, plying the South Shore waters patiently seeking cow bass but settling for giant bluefish in the interim. Occasional flurries of fast action can be enjoyed using artificials when schools of feeding game fish are encountered in such productive areas of past years as Moriches, Democrat, or Point Lookout.

Towards November as the northerly winds acquire a distinct bite, the mouths of the Sound harbors become prime places to seek the teen-sized blues departing their summer domain. Frozen bunker fished on the bottom will account for many of these fish as they course around the highlands eastward through the waters of the North Fork. Surfmen preferring to use artificials can often delight in stimulating fishing with these blues which approach the twenty pound mark.

With the departure of the bluefish from the Sound, striped bass will once again gain the spotlight. Although east end anglers will take decent quantities of bass from beaches like Miller Place, Wading River, and the fascinating shore line of Southold, the western Sound should witness the greater action as the season winds down in this area.

Montauk Point, particularly Shagwong and North Bar fished during brisk northwest winds, should make a trip to these areas worthwhile, but attention to areas further west especially around the inlets should not be forgotten. Moriches and Jones have proven to be productive locations at this time for the three species in question. As the east end beaches pass into their winter slumber, the western jetties and the shores of Staten Island will continue yielding fish as the last remnants of the migration pass their shores.

Anglers unwilling to cut the tape can extend the season by taking bass from the swirling waters of the East and Hudson Rivers or from the waters affected by the LILCO plant in Northport.

The coming season, I believe, will witness a change in the habits of many surf fishermen. With talk of the price of gasoline approaching the two dollar mark and spiraling inflation eating up an increasing amount of hard-earned salary, many of us will be forced to abandon our wide-ranging journeys seeking the best fishing. Whereas in the past some were willing to set off for the furthest reaches of the Island on the rumor of a good run of fish, second thoughts on the cost of such a trip will compel an angler to remain closer to home. One benefit could be that the nearby waters will be learned and studied in more depth than in the past.

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ROD CHECK-UP

by Ray Hennekey

Rods are the least likely of all of our equipment to receive proper maintenance before they're put back into service after the winter layoff. Yet there are plenty of rod-related problems that can cause headaches and cost you fish. A rod check-up now could help you avoid trouble when fishing starts again. It will help you pass idle winter hours, too.

Guides and the tiptop are probably the most critical parts of a rod. Guides rust or line wears dangerous grooves in them that will cut your line, always at the worst possible time. Corrosion, as well as normal day to day bumps and bruises suffered by guides, can break or weaken the welds between the guide ring and braces. Replace all broken, rusty or worn guides.

The wrappings that bind guides to the rod blank can fail at critical times, too. It's a terrible feeling one gets when he sees a loose guide slide down the line while he's putting rod pressure on a big fish.

Wrappings may need replacement if they are beginning to fray at all. Look for loose threads or "fuzz" that indicate that the thread could start to unravel at any moment. Study the windings for any nicks or cuts that penetrate the varnish to the threads. These promise to be trouble spots before the season is over. An extra coat or two of varnish over all wrappings will help preserve them for another season. Re-wrap any guides that have severaly frayed windings or on which a winding has been cut or broken.

Look over the rod blank for nicks and cuts as well. Though modern rod materials take a tremendous beating, some will receive damage that requires your attention. Nicks in the outer finish are generally a cosmetic problem, but some nicks are deep enough to weaken the blank. If you're lucky, deep cuts will be at a juncture where a rod can be ferruled without hurting the action, If not, special repairs will change the rod. That or throw the rod away.

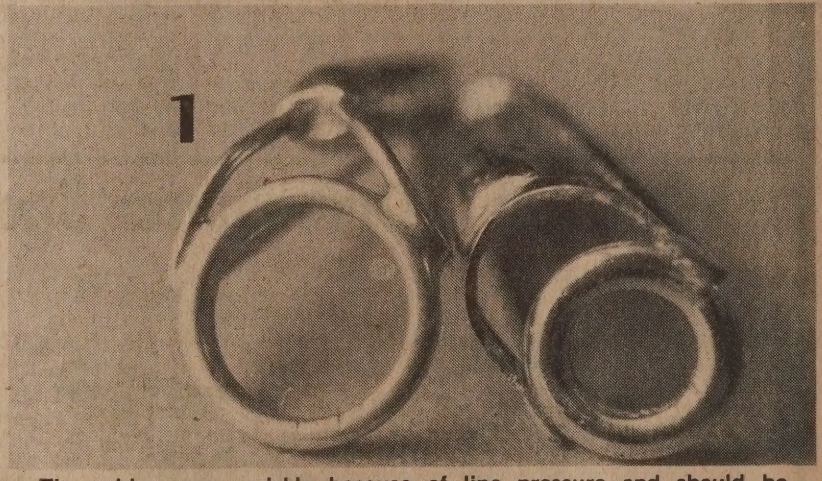
Ferrules are a major problem area on most rods unless they are paid close attention. Check metal ferrules for corrosion and clean them thoroughly. If the corrosion is too stubborn, have the ferrules replaced. Eyeball both metal and glass ferrules for hairline cracks that show they're dangerously weakened. Replace metal ferrules with cracks and re-ferrule glass-to-glass ferrules with metal connectors. Also replace any ferrules that have loosened with wear.

Handles on rods require maintenence, too. Cork handles should be cleaned often with soap and water. Any holes in the cork that are too large for your taste should be filled with a mixture of glue and cork dust or wood filler. Never varnish or treat cork handles with any other material.

Reel seats on spinning rods are one part that requires special attention. Make sure that all of the moving parts are snug fitting and that none of them have hairline cracks that indicate a need for replacement. Clean all metal parts thoroughly of any grime and corrosion.

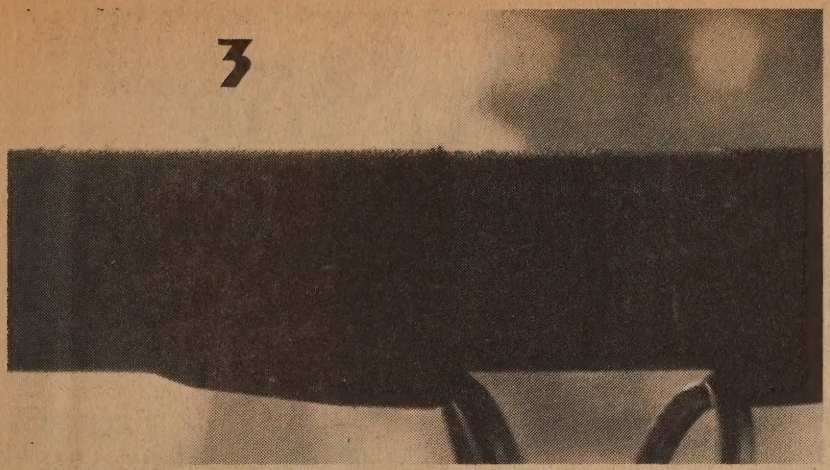
Special attention should also be given to collet type bait and spin casting handles. All parts should be snug and clean, especially the ferrule attachment at the rod butt. Check both the rod blank and the butt ferrule for hairline cracks or unusual wear that warn you have problems on the way. Study the collet for problems also. Re-ferrule the butt and replace handles when any weaknesses are identified.

After you have given the rod a once-over for weaknesses and minor damages and have corrected any of those you find, give the ol' lure lobber a bath. A mild solution of warm water and dish detergent will do the clean-up job admirably. An old toothbrush will help get stubborn dirt out of hard to reach spots. Touch up moving metal parts with a light oil and you are ready for the season to start.

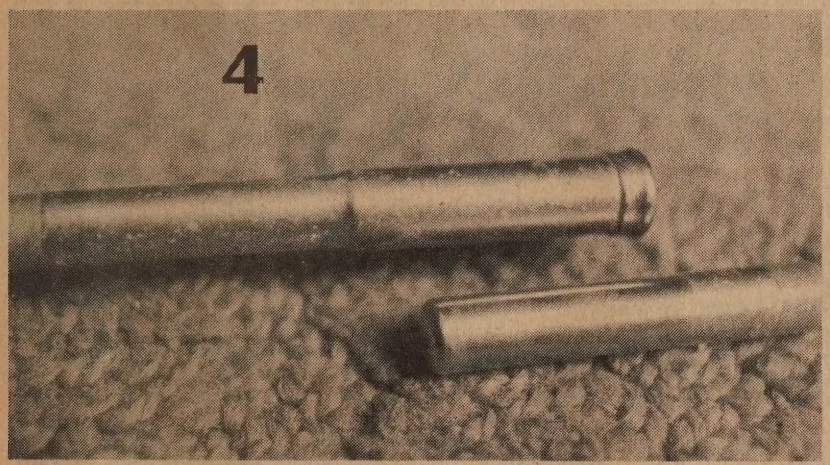


Tip guides wear quickly because of line pressure and should be checked often. Both of these tips have line-cutting grooves worn in them. The guide on the right also has some corrosion inside the ring. Both guides MUST be replaced.

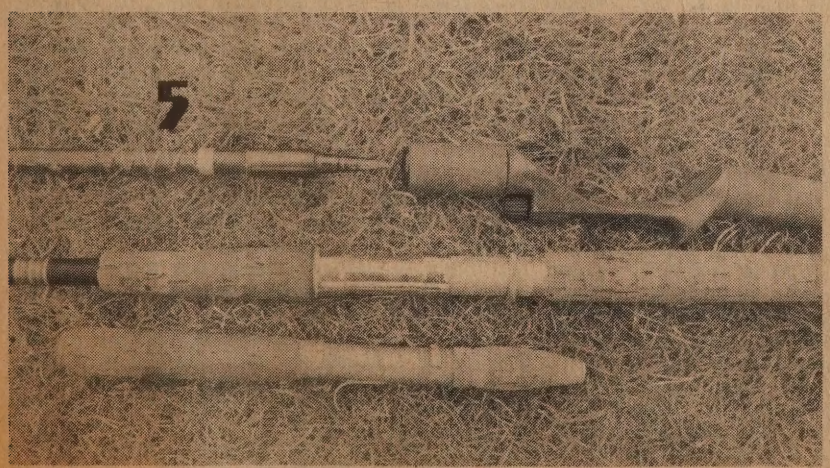
Corrosion of guides like that seen on this one causes all kinds of trouble. Rust spots indie the guide ring will severely wear or cut line. Rust outside the ring and on the guide braces weaken the guide and can damage line as well. Replace any rusty guides you find.



Hold the guide up to a light to check for frayed wrappings. Wraps on this guide are just beginning to fray, so a coat of two of varnish should prevent any problems this season. Replace wraps when thread is cut through or beginning to unravel.



Ferrules are a major source of trouble if they are not checked regularly, especially on rods used in saltwater. This ferrule has begun to corrode on the outside and slightly near the tip of the male half (arrow). Corrosion should be gently removed and the ferrule thoroughly cleaned. If the oxidation-corrosion does not clean off, the ferrule should be replaced. Also replace any ferrules which have hairline cracks or do not fit snugly.



Wear and corrosion on handles and reel seats can result in many woes. Examine metal reel seats for corrosion and wear. Clean all parts thoroughly. Clean and lubricate butt ferrules on bait- and spincasting handles. Replace any ferrules that are loose fitting, have tiny cracks or are severely corroded. Soap and water will remove dirt from cork handles and make 'em look like new.

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Are You On the Right Wavelength?

TYPICAL EAST COAST WAVES. 6 to 8 foot variety breaking at Gilgo Beach, Long Island.

If you are a fisherman, boatman, or one who simply enjoys "messing around" on or in the water, there comes a time when you will come into contact with some type of wave or waves that will cause you to think specifically about waves. What causes them, how they get larger, where they come from, where they get bigger, and what gives them all of their tremendous energy will occupy your thoughts. In forty-five years of water experience, which includes that of boating, fishing, diving, surfing, and just plain looking at the sea, I have experienced most types of waves (except tidal waves, or tsunamis). I have gained a profound respect from observing this natural phenomena. My respect has been greatly reinforced by having survived three boat overturns: two incurred while trolling inside of the breakers, and the other while attempting to navigate Fire Island Inlet when a strong outgoing tide was opposed by large incoming waves reinforced by strong southwest winds. The waves were successfully gaining entrance through shallow Fire Island Inlet at the time I was trying to gain access to ocean via the same inlet. In my haste to become a piscatorial hero, I neglected to study wave patterns prior to making my inlet exit. I hit the throttle on my sixteen foot Whaler and proceeded to run into the curl of an eight foot breaker doing a ground loop of 180°. Needless to say, I flipped over and found myself in the drink. Luckily, the water was warm and one of my fishing buddies was nearby for the rescue. I lost the motor, recovered the unsinkable boat and promised myself I would spend a little more time in studying waves.

My experiences in the U. S. Navy as both active and passive observer of twenty to fifty foot waves on the open seas simply amazed and hypnotized me. Oftentimes, I actually was terrified of their size and the resulting power and energy they held. My surfing experiences probably gave me a greater firsthand knowledge of wave action than that derived from my boating experiences. Being in the water with waves, as contrasted with the experience of being in the water on a boat, is an experience which has greater learning applicability to what waves can do to you, your body, and your surf board. A positive learning feature for the surfer as contrasted with the boatman is that the surfer rapidly learns how a wave can wipe him out. He can repeat the process at minimum expense to his body and surf board. For the careless boatman trolling for bass inside of the breakers being caught by a large surprise, breaking wave can be the ultimate experience never to be repeated if he drowns. If he is overturned and lives to relate the experience I am quite sure that he will come away from the experience with a profound respect for the power of water as I have.

Why the Great Interest in Waves?

Anyone who plays or works in or on the water sooner or later realizes that just to watch waves is a mesmerizing experience that fills one with wonder as to their origin. On a moonlit night with a loved one, wave-watching can be romantic and bewitching. While trolling for bass or weakfish on the breaker line, wave-watching is a must upon which the success of your fishing expedition depends. A flip-over could be disastrous. Running an inlet without knowledge of wave action can be suicidal. Experiencing twenty to thirty foot storm waves aboard ship in open sea can be terrifying. Watching an exploding surf on the beach or striking a breakwater during a hurricane fills one with awe at the tremendous destrictive power of moving water. Waves are amongst the most destructive forces in nature. If you spend any time on the water, a knowledge of waves could save your life.

What is a Wave and What is the Wind Effect on a Wave?

A mass of water particles moving in a circular orbit, the size of which diminishes with depth, is basically a wave. The orbits of these particles tend to be flattened at the bottom. Wind causes waves. There are three factors: **1.** Fetch or distance of open water across which wind blows; **2.** Length of time the wind blows, and **3.** Average velocity of the wind.

Waves begin as ripples caused by the frictional drag of a breeze on calm water. As the breeze continues to blow, the steep side of each ripple presents a surface against which the moving air can press directly. Wavelets of all sizes are now produced because winds, by nature, are usually turbulent and gusty. The small, steep wavelets break, forming whitecaps which release some of their energy in turbulence. Some of this turbulent energy is released and given to larger waves that overtake the smaller waves. As energy is added to these waves, the smaller waves continually give way to larger ones which have a greater energy capacity. However, small waves are continually formed and in the zone where the wind moves faster than the waves, there is a great variety of wavelengths. The place where waves are originally formed is known as the generating area. In a large storm, the generating area may cover hundreds of square miles. If winds from a storm apply more force than a wave can absorb, the crest is merely steepened and blown off forming a breaking wave at sea. This occurs when the wave crest becomes a wedge of less than 120° and the height of the wave is about one-seventh of its length. Many codfishermen have witnessed this phenomena while fishing off Fire Island in a strong northwest wind of thirty miles per hour.

A long wave can accept more energy from the wind and rise much higher than a short wave passing under the same wind. This condition prevails in shallow water areas such as that of the Great South Bay. When the wind produces waves of many lengths, the shortest ones reach maximum height quickly and then are destroyed while the longer ones continue to grow.

How Do You Measure Speed, Height, Period and Wavelength of Waves?

The time it takes two successive crests or tops of waves to pass a given point is known as the **period** of a wave. The **wavelength** is the distance between two crests. The **height** of a wave is the vertical distance between a crest and succeeding trough. These are the ingredients of a regular wave train. Usually, there are several trains of waves with different wavelengths and directions present at the same time. It is the intersection of these wave trains which creates a random or short crescent diamond pattern which every boatman sees. When these conditions of randomness occur, no real dimension can be assigned to the wave period and length. We call these conditions "choppy" or "bumpy." Height, however, is very important to sailors for the simple reason that several crests may coincide, resulting in a very large dangerous wave. Luckily, crests are much more likely to coincide with troughs of waves which, in turn, cancels out the potentially large reinforcing effects.

What Causes Large Wind Waves?

The largest wind waves have been recorded when there has been a strong steady wind blowing over a great distance of water. The height of a wave in a wave train does not bear any simple relationship to the dimensions of period and wavelength. The boatman's rule of thumb is based on the relationship of wave height to wind velocity and states simply that the height of a wave usually will not be greater than half the wind speed. If you are experiencing a steady forty miles per hour gale, you can expect wave heights of twenty feet sooner or later...usually sooner. If you are caught in a hurricane with wind speeds of one hundred miles per hour, you can look forward eventually to wave heights of fifty feet. Storm waves over forty-five feet high are rather common in the North Atlantic.

Much higher waves have been witnessed and recorded. Probably a world record wave was one estimated at 112' high which on February 7, 1933 struck a 475' Naval tanker, the U.S.S. Ramapo, en route to San Diego from Manila. The period of this giant wave was estimated at 14.8 seconds with a velocity of fifty-five knots. The tanker was unharmed.

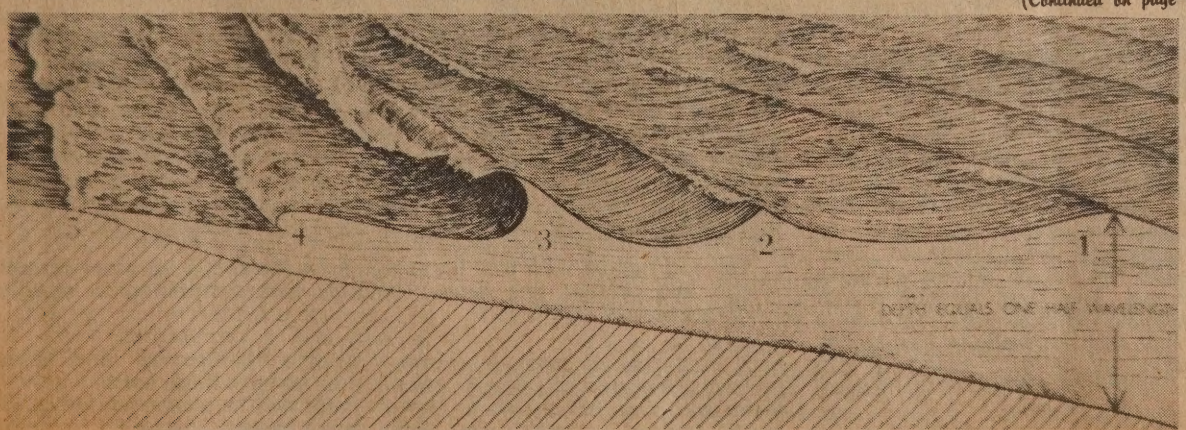
There is other evidence of large waves such as that which struck the Scotch Cap, Alaska Lighthouse in 1946, completely destroying the lighthouse, radio mast, and supporting foundation. This wave was estimated at 103' high since the radio beacon was located on a plateau 103' above sea level. Lighthouse debris was found on this plateau.

What is the Force of Large Waves?

Waves transport energy and can do great damage. Surf fishermen and swimmers have had their backs broken by large breaking waves which have struck them in the swash zone on the beach. The U. S. Corps of Engineers' studies report that large storm waves have hurled 5,000 pound stones over breakwater walls, lighthouse beacons 130' above sea level have had their lights knocked out by wave-tossed stones weighing up to 500 pounds. Breakwaters reinforced by stone abutments weighing as much as 2500 tons have been broken up and carried away by storm waves. Ocean-going container ships have been snapped in half.

Wave specialists and oceanographers have computed wave forces as high as 6200 lbs. per square foot. For those boatmen interested in pressure per square

(Continued on page 7)



WAVE BREAKS UP at the beach when swell moves into water shallower than half the wavelength (1). The shallow bottom raises wave height and decreases length (2). At a water depth 1.3 times the wave height, water supply is reduced and the particles of water in the crest have no room to complete their cycles; the wave form breaks (3). A foam line forms and water particles, instead of just the wave form, move forward (4). The low remaining wave runs up the face of the beach as a gentle wash called the uprush (5).

Areas 2 and 3 on diagram are areas which trollers oftentimes find themselves when they are not paying attention to headlands, offshore humps, etc., which cause breaking waves to break farther offshore than the line of their troll.

TIN SQUIDS

by Ray Hennekey

Ever wonder why so many folks refer to saltwater spoons as "tin" when they aren't tin at all? The answer is simple. Many of the very best spoons ever concocted were made of pure block tin.

The old tin lures were called squids because their general shape was similar to that of a squid, though there were hundreds of variations and sizes. Most had a keel built on so the spoon wouldn't spin and twist line as you retrieved. Some squids were adorned with intricate designs and detailed scale patterns; others were disarmingly simple.

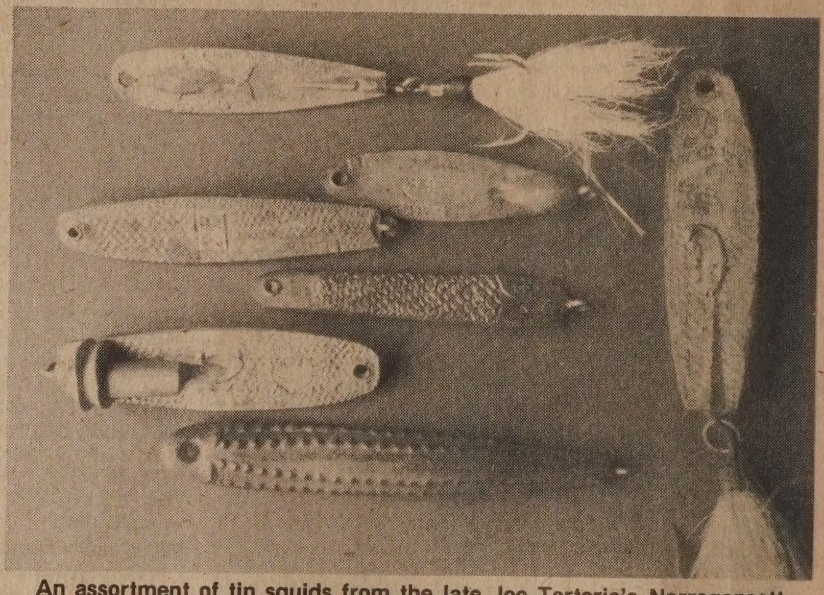
Tin lures are rarely made nowadays because tin is so darn expensive and because it's very difficult to find molds for the lures. Still, some saltwater anglers mold their own tin lures today—they know the magic effect tin squids can have on stripers. Though I don't make my own squids, the old style tin lures have a very special place in my tackle bag. They are the most versatile metal lures ever invented.

Squids were not always made of pure tin. The weight of squids was often adjusted in the shop to improve casting properties and swimming action by mixing lead with the pure tin to add weight. Added heft not only let a caster put more oomph into his delivery, but it made the squid a faster sinker for deep waters. The heavier lures often had a slightly less erratic wiggle as well.

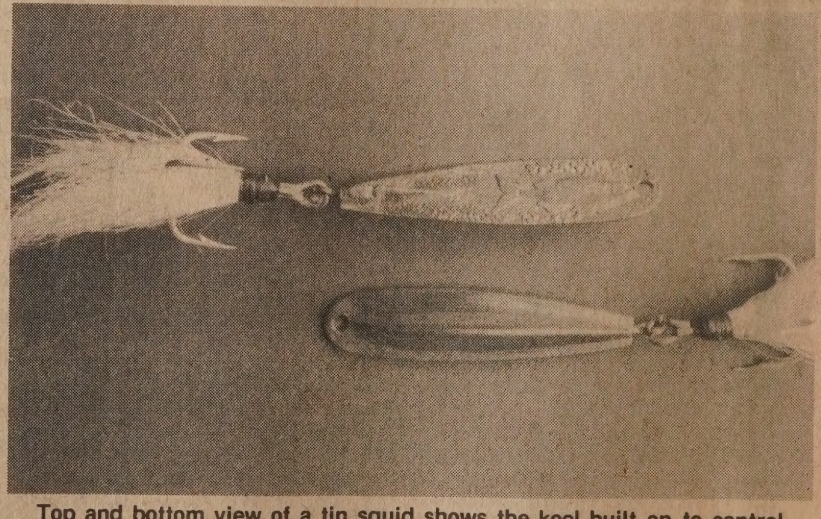
The best part of adding lead to the squids, however, was that one could use a proven all-tin design and alter its properties and improve its versatility without destroying the lure's original fish catching ability. (One old-timer also told me that zinc was sometimes added to the lead-tin mix, though he wasn't sure why. Perhaps to retain the shine, he suggested.) Regardless of their weight, tin squids are aerodynamic marvels. They slice through a stiff headwind like they were shot from a cannon and can easily be cast to fish feeding in the far breakers. It's in the water that the squids really show their stuff, however.

As a general rule, spoons sink at a rate proportional to their thickness or weight. Not so with tin squids. Because of their unique design, squids generally wobble toward bottom; rarely do they knife through the water. And most tin baits swim high in the water even on a slow retrieve. You needn't worry about them snagging bottom if a slow, erratic retrieve is called for—a real boon when fishing rocky waters. Try slow retrieves with most modern slabs of metal and you're likely to hang bottom more often than fish.

Do tin squids catch fish! Squids dance, wobble and cavort the way stripers like 'em to. And because they perform these antics high in the water on the slowest retrieve, they are a superb choice for sniping at linesiders in shallow surf and over tidal flats. I've even caught stripers by dangling the squids on a tight line in the backwash tight against Narragansett's rock shore lines. Stripers holding under the rocky



An assortment of tin squids from the late Joe Tartoric's Narragansett workshop. The second squid from the top was to be used with an eel skin.



Top and bottom view of a tin squid shows the keel built on to control spin and prevent line twist. The keel also contributed to squid's unique action.

ledge or foraging in the foam dart out and smack the "resting" bait.

Though they are best known for fooling linesiders, tin squids make other salty gamesters look silly too. Bluefish are as partial to the old tins as any striper. Weakfish, too, latch onto squids, especially thin bodied squids that replicate sand eels or silversides. Fluke are partial to skinny squids bounced off the bottom.

Most squids are unplated so it's up to you to decide how much shine you want to them to have. Unless you buff them up, squids remain lead grey. All you have to do to shine one up though, is to rub it in the sand on the beach. Instant flash.

I've caught most of my fish on unpolished squids festooned with a clean white bucktail. The squid's natural enticing action and the small bit of white flitting along behind are all the enticement that's needed to bring predators charging. Treble bucktails can be used, but a single hook allows the squid to dance more freely, and if placed with the point riding up, will not hang up on bottom debris.

Because tin is so malleable, it is easy to change a squid's action even when you're standing chest deep in the surf. The old tins are soft enough for you to bend them in your hands until they're frolicking just the way you—and the fish—want them. Larger squids can be pushed again a rock to change the bend. Can't do that with modern spoons unless you're allergic to Kryptonite.

It is truly unfortunate that we can't walk into the local tackle shop and buy tin squids over the counter. Even that inconvenience has its good side, however. Finding tin squids can be almost as much fun as fishing with them.

Most of the old tin fish I've found were buried deep in a pile of odds and ends at flea markets, yard sales, and rummage sales. Now, I don't often frequent such affairs (I'd rather be fishin'), but I do keep a sharp eye for such gems when I do go flea marketing.

Because I don't get many opportunities to hit yard sales and flea markets personally, I've enlisted friends into my squid search squad. I show them what the squids look like and ask them to keep an eye peeled for them when they're browsing at sales. It's a special treat to me when one of those friends unexpectedly drops by the house with a fistful of old spoons for me.

The real charm of fishing with the ol' squids isn't entirely in how well they work. The special appeal of these antiques is that they are a vital link with fishing history. As I slide a tin-tricked striper onto a lonely beach, I often sense that I have reached a real connection with the pioneers of surfcasting. That connection makes the catching of fish a treat I don't plan to give up till the world runs out of tin.

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To get the most out of tackle—

KEEP IT CLEAN!

by Martin & Janet Garrell

It was a long day, but a successful one, with plenty of fish hauled aboard. After the fishing was over, you took the time to clean your catch and swab down the boat. Everything seems shipshape as you pull into the driveway just before supper. Now you can relax in those few minutes before it's time to eat—right? Wrong! Now you should take care of the tackle that's served you so faithfully all day.

Obviously, the all-important link between an angler and his catch is his tackle—rod, reel, line, and terminal rigs. Not so obvious is why this tackle frequently becomes the forgotten link in the post-angling cleanup. The fish are carefully converted to tidy packets of fillets, the boat is treated lovingly with a bucket of water and a sponge—and the rods are thrown into the back of the station wagon, where they'll remain until somebody remembers to take them out and lean them against a garage wall. Occasionally, every few trips, they will be given a perfunctory dousing from a garden hose. Also occasionally, a large fish, hooked on this tackle, will be lost on the way to the boat because a corroded reel drag froze, or a weakened rod guide broke, or a blunted hook failed to set.

Like many other fishermen, we've been tempted to throw our gear into a corner when we've come home exhausted from a day on the water. Yet the knowledge of what happens to tackle that's been ignored has restrained us, with the result that, over the course of years, we have evolved techniques of saltwater tackle care which—depending on the amount of gear used—take only an extra ten to twenty minutes of cleanup time after each trip, but add immeasurably to the life of the equipment. Some of the rods and reels in our collection of actively used tackle range from thirty to sixty-five years old and are still in good working order.

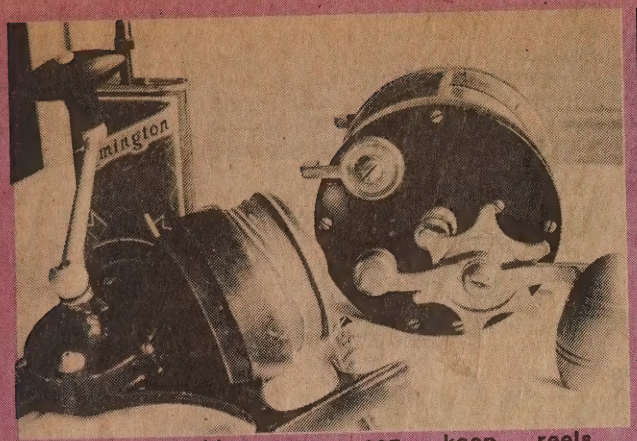
The first point in cleaning tackle is to disassemble it. Terminal rigs come off lines and are placed in a bucket of freshwater and reels are removed from rods. Then, because rods are the easiest to care for, they are usually handled first. In fact, as long as the reels are removed, the rods can get the classic treatment of being leaned against the house or garage and getting blasted with a garden hose. If no outside faucet is available, the kitchen sink faucet works just as well, especially after you acquire some practice maneuvering the rods under the stream of water. Just remember to remove crockery and glassware from the adjacent countertops, or you may end up eating off paper plates in the doghouse. Or, try the bathtub faucet, although it may take a few gyrations to fit an eleven foot, one-piece surf rod into a ten foot bathroom. When the rods are dry, oil should be applied sparingly to guide frames or rollers.

Reels demand somewhat more care. The problem here is rinsing off the reel in such a way that water doesn't get under the spool and into the frame or housing, thus flooding the gears. Well greased gears can handle what little moisture penetrates in the course of a day's angling, but won't run well for long in an underwater marine environment. A fine dribble of tap water, applied with the fingers over the exterior of the reel, is the method used by one-half of this team. The other half, who has a flourishing collection of house plants, uses a one-quart plastic plant mister, the kind available in most hardware or garden supply stores for less than $2, to direct a fine spray of fresh water over the reels. Incidentally, before applying any water to reel exteriors, one should make sure there are grease seals between covers and housings or between frames and side plates so that the guts of all reels are unaffected by exterior washing.

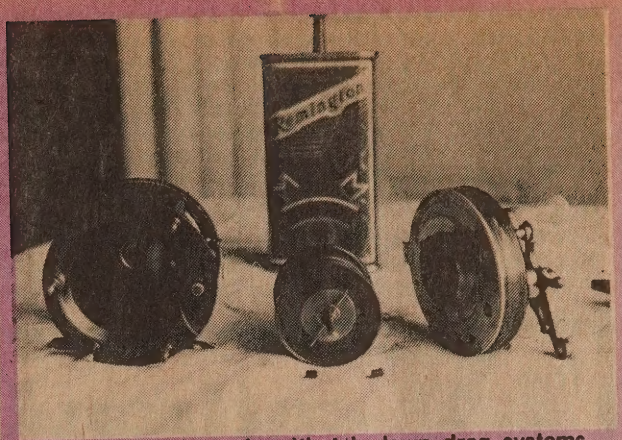
Once reels have been sprayed and wiped off with a clean rag, care will vary depending on reel type. Some conventional reels like the robust Penns need only to be oiled or greased at points indicated on their frames. Other reels with unit-assembly features like the Ambassadeurs can be broken down for oiling at critical points, i.e., exposed gears, spool caps, level wind mechanisms, and spool flange rims. Spinning reel spools with take-down drag systems should also be disassembled for drying and for greasing of washer assemblies. Most of these spool assemblies break into a few parts and are easy to grease and to get back together again. Be sure the washers go back in the proper order, though! The Teflon or leather the manufacturer puts between two metal surfaces is there to reduce or add friction, a fact which you may discover the next time a big blue or bass runs down-tide and the spool either loosens alarmingly or binds fatally. (You have the washers in the wrong order, pal!) One last word about the coffee-mills: try after each trip to oil the bail springs and the bushings between the bails and the housings. Most manufacturers will never go over to manual pickup, so we've got to live with our bails and treat 'em with respect.

Fortunately, most modern line doesn't suffer from saltwater exposure, but problems can develop which justify checking after each trip. Twisted or kinked mono is a chronic plague for the troller, especially with the rise of surge tubes in the popularity polls. Happily those fiendish twists can be removed almost as easily as they developed. On the trip back to the dock, simply play out the length of affected line, with all terminal rigs removed, and let it straighten out by riding for a few minutes in the boat's wake. The other problem to look for is weakness in the last few feet of line, which is subject to both stretching and abrasion during a day's fishing. We give it a quick check by running it through our fingers and testing strength in several spots. If it seems weak, that portion can be broken or cut off.

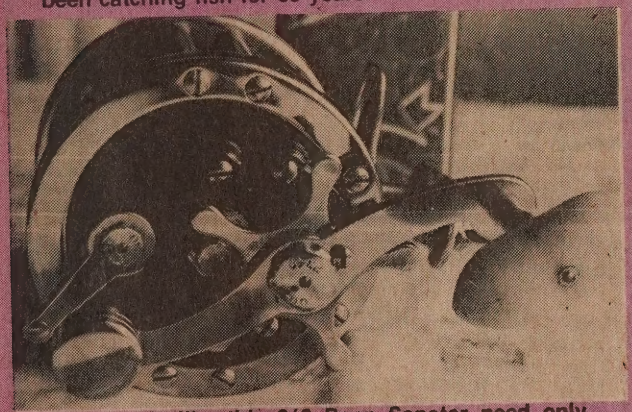
Hooks, lures, swivels, and knives also require cleanup. It's easy to bring in a bucket of fresh water, dip those pieces of equipment, and hang them somewhere to dry. When you dab oil on the barbs or knife blades before stowing them back in tackle box, backpack, or surf bag, try using cooking oil rather than the old 3-in-1 or light reel oil. Vegetable oil retards rust about as well as petroleum distillates, but, more important, it won't turn off the fish with sensitive smellers the next time you dangle the oiled hook in front of them, nor will it turn off the gourmet, who may not care for the slight taste of the refinery present in a fillet sliced with a petroleum-oiled knife.



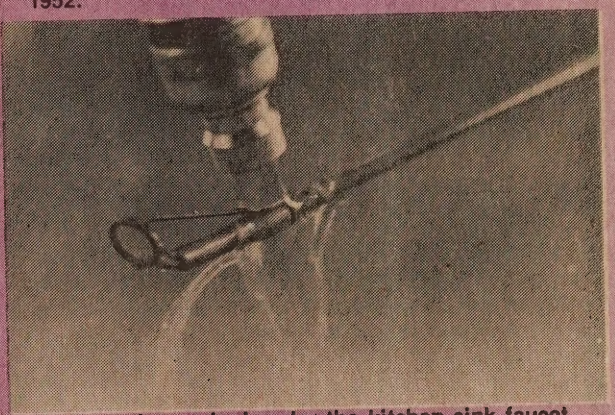
Proper tackle care can keep reels going for a long time. The Centaure Pacific on the left has been in service for almost 30 years, and the Vom Hofe 4/0 "B Ocean" on the right has been catching fish for 65 years.



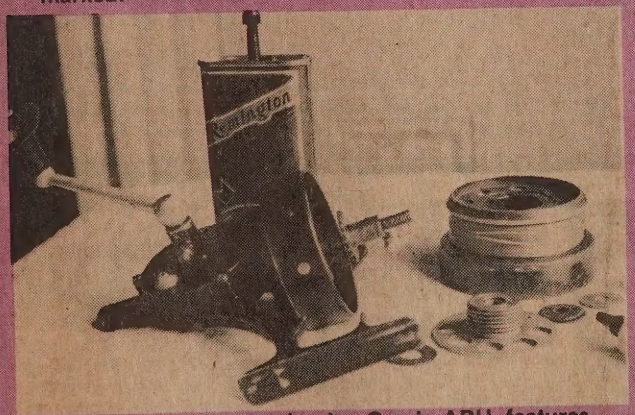
Spinning reel spools with takedown drag systems should be disassembled for drying and greasing of the washer assemblies after each use. The reel shown is a Centaure Pacific, manufactured in 1952.



Some reels like this 3/0 Penn Senator need only exterior lubrication after washing. No takedown is required, and nipples for grease and oil are plainly marked.



Rods can be washed under the kitchen sink faucet, too, although it takes some practice maneuvering the rod and avoiding the crockery.



The Ambassadeur series by Garcia-ABU features easy takedown. After washing the reel, each of the units in the assembly should be lubricated separately.

When rods are dry, oil should be applied sparingly to guide frames or rollers.

Major maintenance is more involved than daily tackle care, but even the hard-bitten old salt who fishes several times a week shouldn't have to schedule this work more than two or three times a season. The occasional angler, who cares for his tackle after each trip can save the big jobs for the dead time at season's end. Replacing hooks and wrapping rod guides are straightforward tasks which can be accomplished easily enough while watching a late-night TV movie or a sports spectacular. Just be sure you don't get carried away by the action on the screen and knock over the bottles of color preserver or rod varnish. They're murder on living room rugs, and they don't taste good on peanuts.

Taking down reels and packing them with fresh grease calls for more concentration, however. Most friendly tackle shop proprietors advise anglers to do the best lube job possible without tearing reels down to the last tiny screw and washer, and, as far as star drag take-down goes the word is "No!" Several years ago, after reading in a magazine article that star drag servicing was easy, we dug in on a Penn Levelline #350, took it down to components, and by some miracle, got it back together again. It was fine, except that it functioned only as a direct drive reel. To get the star

drag to work, you grasped the madly whirling handle. Fortunately, a good-natured tackle repair expert set the reel right again by replacing a missing spring. When we met the writer of the piece not long ago, we couldn't resist asking him whether he actually thought complete reel disassembly and assembly were so easy. "Of course not! The first time I took down a star drag reel, my first thought was—'Migod, what've I done!' Then I went straight to the liquor cabinet and poured a double scotch."

When one gets down to the bottom line, the purpose of daily tackle care is to keep gear in shape so that it fishes properly and responds perfectly on a fish that the angler really wants. Last season, we found ourselves fishing spring weakfish in Peconic Bay's South Race on a rather mediocre day. Careless about breaking off a snagged lure, we tangled lines with a nearby boat and wound up losing a half spool of line, a situation which made the reel useless for the rest of the afternoon. Luckily, we had included a spare reel in our backpack. The extra, an old Mitchell #300, produced in 1950, had been greased, checked, and loaded with fresh line that winter. The weakfish that socked our WMJ lure minutes later was our only one of the day, and weighing a shade under nine pounds, it turned out to be our best of the season. The old reel never missed a turn.

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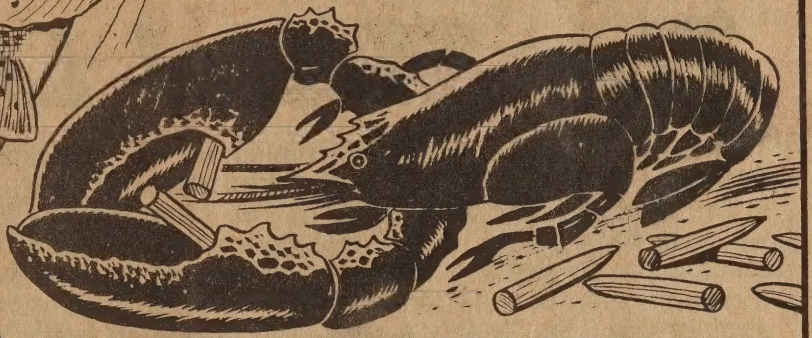
FISHING NEWSBITS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 21LB. 9 OZ. RAINBOW TROUT CAUGHT IN THE SALMON RIVER ON PLASTIC EGGS SET A NEW N.Y. STATE RECORD. THE OLD RECORD WAS 21 LBS. FROM KEUKA LAKE IN 1946.

WOODEN PEGS WEDGED INTO LOBSTER CLAWS TO PREVENT PINCHING OF LOBSTER HANDLERS MAY SOON BE USED AS A VACCINATION INSTRUMENT TO STOP DISEASE. NAT'L. OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENTISTS HOPE TO PREVENT THE BACTERIAL DISEASE *GAFFKEMIA* PREVALENT IN HIGH DENSITY CONCENTRATIONS OF LOBSTERS IN HOLDING PENS AND FISH STORE TANKS.

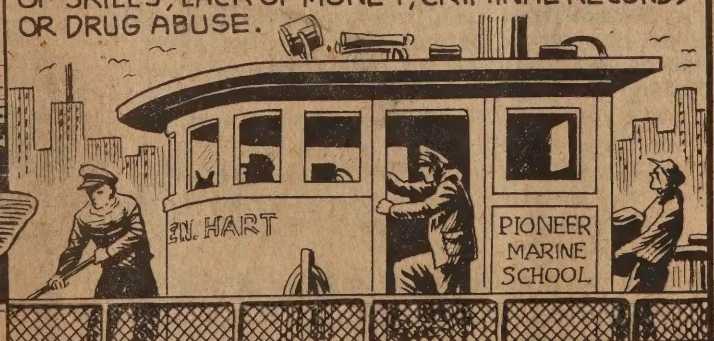


EAST COAST ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION EFFORTS HAD A BAD YEAR IN NEW ENGLAND EXCEPT FOR THE CONNECTICUT RIVER WHERE 58 RETURNING FISH WERE CAPTURED. OF THESE, 32, INCLUDING 20 FEMALES SURVIVED TO SPAWN 100,000 EGGS. SALMON FROM THESE EGGS WILL BE RELEASED IN THE SPRING OF 1982, TRAVEL TO GREENLAND AND THEN RETURN IN 1984 AS 10-12 LB. SALMON.

EMBRYO - ALEVIIN - LARVAL SALMON - SALMON FRY

THE AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY HOLDS ITS ANNUAL "*YOUR FUTURE IN THE SEA*" SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY MAR. 29, 1980 AT THE N.Y. CITY AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 1-5 PM AND 8-10:30 PM. EXPERTS ON THE SEA WILL SPEAK AND SHOW FILMS. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE A.L.S. HIGHLANDS, NEW JERSEY 07732 OR CALL 201-291-0055

THE PIONEER MARINE SCHOOL OF N.Y. CITY WITH ITS CAMPUS ON THE FERRY BOAT "*MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM H. HART*" TRAINS YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALL THE MECHANICAL SKILLS OF THE BOATING INDUSTRY. IT OFFERS A *SECOND CHANCE* FOR JOBS TO YOUTHS OUT OF WORK DUE TO LACK OF SKILLS, LACK OF MONEY, CRIMINAL RECORDS OR DRUG ABUSE.



BEST FISHING DAYS FOR MARCH WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW & FULL* ARE MARCH 16-30, JUST IN TIME FOR THE SPRING FLATTIES.

The Case For A Saltwater Fishing License

★PART ONE★

The Model License

This is the first of a series of articles we are publishing on *The Case For A Saltwater Fishing License* for the reasons outlined in the editorial that appeared in the February 7th, 1980 issue of *The Long Island Fisherman.* In that editorial we gave the opinion that at this time saltwater sport fishermen stand to gain much more by fighting for a well structured license *NOW* rather than waiting for a meaningless license to be implemented that would be nothing more than just another tax. The *Model License* that is printed below is what L.I.F. believes to be a well structured license that will provide the most benefits to recreational sport fishermen while providing at the same time safeguards against abuses by the government bureaucracy that will administer the money that is collected. For the sake of readability, it has not been written in legal terms whenever possible. The provisions of this Model License will be those that are referred to in all subsequent parts of this series, which will explain each provision in depth. Readers are asked to please withold comment until the series has been completed. At that time reader's comments will be welcomed and published until we feel that all aspects of the issue have been fully aired. At the end of this comment period, a reader service card will be inserted in an issue of *The Long Island Fisherman* that will let our readers vote on whether to pursue having the Model License introduced as legislation. *Scott J. Simons*

I. *HOW WOULD THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE BE SET UP?*

A. Anyone who catches fish by any method in the waters of the marine and coastal district of the State of New York, or anyone who lands fish taken outside the territorial waters of the State, will be required to have a Marine Recreational Fishing License, except for:

1. Minors less than sixteen years of age.
2. Those who have attained the age of 65.
3. Members of the Armed Forces of the U.S.
4. Those fishing from a boat or facility which is covered by an "umbrella license." *(See* I.B.2.*)*

B. How much would the Marine Recreational Fishing License cost?

1. Individuals.
   a. The annual fee for the MRF license for individuals will be $6.00, with an additional fee of $.50 for the issuing clerk.
      (1). The initial purchase of the MRF license may be at any bait & tackle shop, boat livery station, marina, or any other fishing facility that wishes to become an official "issuing clerk."
      (2). The license may be renewed annually by any issuing clerk, or the $.50 issuing fee can be dispensed with by renewing the license via mail.
      (3). All MRF licenses will expire on December 31st of each year.
2. Blanket Licenses.
   a. *Party & Charter Boats.*
      (1). Operators of party and charter boats who engage in the business of operating vessels carrying one or more individuals fishing for a fee in the marine and coastal district shall be required to purchase a marine and coastal district party and charter boat license to cover each vessel so used. Passengers on such licensed vessels may take fish in the waters of the marine and coastal district and land fish in the marine and coastal district taken outside the territorial waters of the State without purchasing a Marine Recreational Fishing License. Each license shall be issued in the name of the owner of the

boat so licensed. License fees shall be computed on the basis of the carrying capacity of the vessel to be licensed as indicated in the document, register or certificate of inspection issued by the United States Coast Guard. Vessels without suitable documentation to establish carrying capacity will be limited to a license for passenger capacity of six or less.

(a). The license fee for party and charter boats shall be:

For each vessel with the passenger capacity of:	
6 or less	$ 50
7 to 25	100
26 to 50	125
51 to 75	150
76 to 100	175
101 or more	200

b. *Boat Rental Liveries.*

(1). Owners of boat rental liveries engaged in the business of renting vessels for use in taking and landing fish in the waters of the marine and coastal district shall be required to purchase a marine and coastal district boat rental license to cover vessels so used. Passengers on such licensed vessels may take and land fish in the waters of the marine and coastal district and land fish taken outside the territorial waters of the state without purchasing a marine and coastal Marine Recreational Fishing License. Each vessel license shall be issued in the name of the owner of the boat rental livery and will only be valid for the vessels owned and licensed by that livery. License fees shall be computed on the length of the vessel to be licensed as indicated in the registration issued by the State agency.

(a). The license fee for rental boats shall be:

For each vessel registered length of:	
16 feet or less	$10
16 to 20 feet	15
20 feet or more	20

3. NON-RESIDENTS.

a. Any angler that is not a resident of New York State may take and land fish in the territorial waters of the state without purchasing a Marine Recreational Fishing License, providing that the state in which they reside have an established policy of reciprocity with the State of New York.

b. Any angler that is not a resident of New York State and resides in a state which does not grant New York residents reciprocal privileges and wishes to take and land fish in the territorial waters of New York will be required to purchase a Non-Resident Marine Recreational Fishing License.

(1). The fee for a Non-Resident Marine Recreational Fishing License shall be twenty-five dollars annually.

c. Non-residents that fish from boats or facilities that are covered by a blanket license are not required to purchase a Non-Resident License.

II. *WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE LICENSE FEES COLLECTED?*

A. The New York State Finance Law would be amended by adding a new section, section eighty-three-a, to read as follows:

1. *The Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund.*

a. The Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund shall consist of all monies belonging to the state received by the Department of Environmental Conservation from the sale of licenses and permits for the taking of fish in or from the waters of the marine and coastal district and the landing of fish taken outside the State territorial waters.

b. Any "matching funds" collected by the State from other sources that are received on the basis of funds to be used from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund must be put into the MRF Fund until which time those monies are expended.

c. Federal monies received by the State from the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act (Dingell/Johnson Act) must be put into the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund. This will be a proportionate amount of the monies received by the State based on the total number of Marine Recreational Fishing Licenses sold compared to the total number of Freshwater Fishing Licenses sold in the State annually.

III. *HOW WOULD THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES FUND BE SPENT?*

A. No monies will be spent from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund for the use of facilities, or to pay for salaried personnel, that were being used or employed by the Division of Marine and Coastal Resources of the Department of Environmental Conservation prior to the establishment of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund.

B. Monies will be budgeted and disbursed from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund on a percentage basis according to the following budget:

Facility Development & Mainenance, and Acquisition of Fishing Access	70%
Investigations & Management	10%
Enforcement	8%
Administration	7%
Education & Information	5%
TOTAL	100%

C. No monies from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund shall be used for the acquisition of wetlands, investigations or management of shellfish, or biological research on marine finfish, unless an equal amount of money has been placed in the MRF Fund from the state's General Fund or other source for that specific purpose.

D. No monies from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund will be used for any programs that have been mandated on the state by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Regional Fisheries Management Councils, Sea Grant, the National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other programs that have been mandated on the state under the provisions and authority of the Fisheries Conservation and

(Continued on next page)

Management Act (commonly known as the 200-Mile Limit legislation), except as allowed in C. above.

IV. *WHO WILL DECIDE WHAT THE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES FUND WILL BE SPENT ON?*

A. Establishment of the *Marine Fisheries Council.*

1. The *Marine Fisheries Council* shall consist of seven members, who shall be private citizens appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the state Senate.
2. Prior to being appointed to the *Marine Fisheries Council,* all nominees must be certified in writing as being competent and capable of representing marine recreational fishing interests by one or more of the following nationally recognized organizations:
   a. The Sport Fishing Institute.
   b. The International Game Fish Association.
   c. National Coalition for Marine Conservation.
   d. The American League of Anglers.
3. Of the seven members appointed by the Governor, two shall be appointed for a term of one year; two for a term of two years; and three for a term of three years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be made for terms of three years.
4. The Governor may remove any member of the Council for cause after a public hearing.
5. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred in attending meetings of the Council and in the performance of their duties as members thereof.
6. One member, by a majority vote of the members of the Council, shall be chosen as chairperson.
7. Five members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to transact its business.

V. *WHAT WILL BE THE FUNCTION OF THE MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL?*

The *Marine Fisheries Council* shall, with the approval and advice of the Director of Marine and Coastal Resources, appropriate monies from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund for the following:

A. Facility development and maintenance of:
   1. Ocean Fishing Piers.
   2. Inshore Fishing Piers.
   3. Artificial Fishing Reefs.
   4. Boat Launching Ramps.
   5. Buoy Systems & Aids to Navigation.
   6. Public Docking Facilities.
   7. The development and maintenance of any other facility for use by recreational anglers.

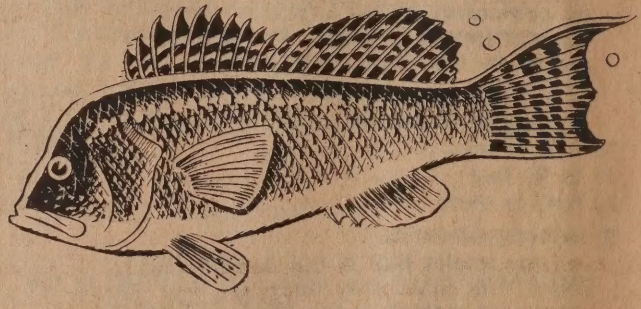
B. The acquisition of lands, waters or rights therein as required to improve access to the marine waters for recreational fishing by the people of the State.

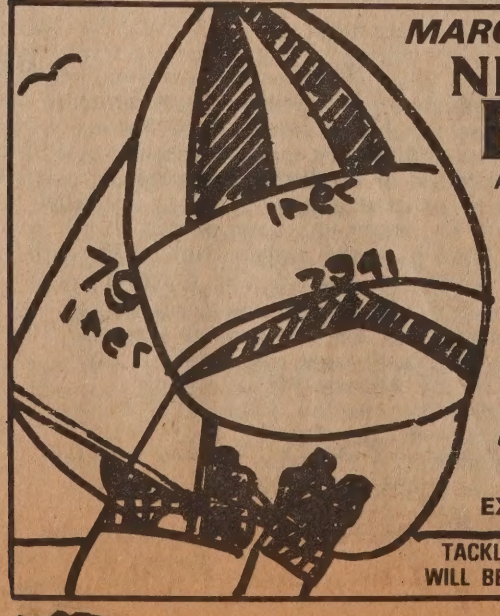
C. Investigations and management.

D. Examine, consider, and make recommendations in any matters pertaining to the conservation and management of marine fisheries resources throughout the State, including proposed increases in license fees.

E. Advise the Director on policies of the Division of Marine and Coastal Resources and in the planning, development and institution of the Division's programs.

F. Submit to the Director any recommendations for new rules and regulations which the Council deems necessary for the proper operation of an effective marine fisheries program for the State.





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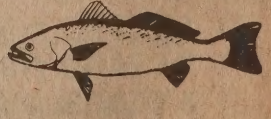

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FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

The Viking Star reports that due to extremely high winds and frigid temperatures Monday was the only day the boat was able to sail through the past week. Eight eager Eskimo types boated 90 cod in the 5-10 lb. range. The pool fish ran a touch over 30 lbs. The boat is fishing Block Island and also local spots. Catches are all on clam. Captain Paul Forsberg is still getting super catches of bottom fish working out of Key West fishing the Dry Tortugas.

Shown is Richard Word between two jewfish of 218 and 318 lbs. taken by Rich and the crew aboard the "Viking Starship."

Winner of a free charter aboard Captain Paul Sundberg's new charter boat **Big Blue** is Robert Guenkel of 236 E. 28th St., New York, N.Y. Bob's entry in the recent contest which was part of the Big Blue inflation fighter coupon was pulled out of a hat at our offices in Sag Harbor. Bob was elated when we notified him and said this was the first time he'd ever won anything.

CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** tells us he plans to continue staying with cod well into the spring and maybe longer, while he will be using his new Speedy VII to ply the flounder trade in Great South Bay.

SEAFORD

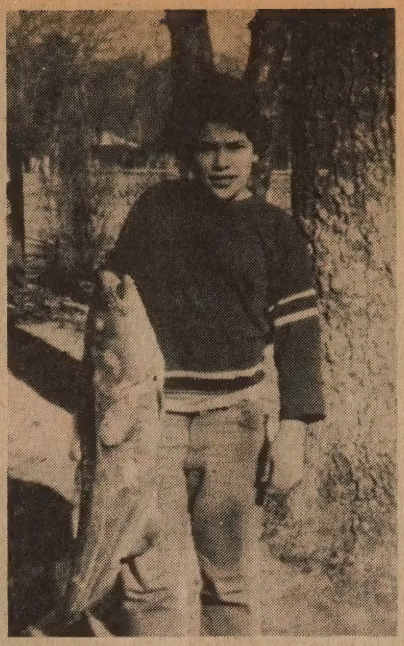
Both **Pop's Fishing Station** and **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** asked us to announce they will both be opening this weekend and they have clams now and will have worms by next weekend.

BELLMORE

The Singing Dog at **Merrick Tackle** has no flounder news as yet. He did tell us, however, that Frank (One Nail) Minerva was rewarded with two small cod and 11 conger eels after putting out a 400 hook setline. This is an improvement, however, as Frank's last efforts resulted in only one ling.

FREEPORT

The Starstream II, which was practically the only boat to sail on Saturday or the whole weekend in fact, due to the inclement weather, had 15 cod for 12 men, fish going up to 42 lbs. All fish were biggies. The boat is being hauled out on March 10 for two weeks for a complete redoing of the main cabin and interior, paneling, new seats, etc.



Michael Karcher took this 32 lb. cod on his first trip out. This fish was landed aboard the "Speedy VI" out of Captree.

The codfishing Saturday was done about an 1½ southeast of Jones Inlet all on clam.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Dorothy B** will begin flounder fishing trips starting on Saturday, March 8. If action is as good as last year, we should be into some good flounder fishing.

Mike's Tackle tells us that loads of whiting have been caught through the weekend mostly at 17 Fathoms. Charlie says a 5 gallon bucket full is no big deal. The shop will have bloodworms for the St. Patrick's day weekend.

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CHUM LINES

COMMENT ON PUBLIC HEARINGS IN BABYLON

I just thought I would take a moment to thank you and Dr. William Muller, for your very informative proposals and presentations made today in behalf of The Long Island Fisherman. I am, of course, speaking about the hearings at Babylon's town hall, pertaining to the legislative bills, S-4878/A7012, which was in my opinion, the most important of all, that were discussed today. I think we had a huge turn-out and Senator Johnson seemed to be very pleased, especially since there was standing room only by 10:15 a.m. and the halls were starting to bulge due to the crowd that was there. I hope that Senator Johnson finds it in his heart as well as in his head to do everything in his power to help pass the bills that were discussed. Myself, as well as Matt Berfiend, Comma Perkins and Jeff Verbeck attended today's hearings, and were all ready to step up to the podium and air our views. As a matter of fact, we were honored to have been seated directly behind yourself and your staff from the LIF. Again, I would like to thank you and at the same time reassure you of my support. **Donald R. Purkess, Bay Shore, N.Y.**

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Hy Slifer of Union, N.J. fishes with Captain John DeMaio of Montauk every Wednesday, 1-7PM from April to December, 1980. He could use one or two fishermen to join his party. Please call 201-372-1000 from 8-12, any day.

SOLVENT FOR REELS

I understand that you have certain literature available on different species of fish. Could you please tell me about them and how to go about ordering them. I recently read an article in the January 10 issue that mentioned a non-toxic solvent for cleaning reels. Could you also give me more information on that. I would like to take this time to tell you how much I enjoy The Fisher-

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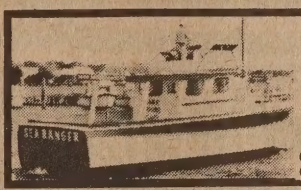

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man and how helpful it has been to me. Well, thanks again for the information in the past and I'm sure, the future. Good Fishing. *J. Becker, Hicksville, NY.*

We do have sources of information about various species of fish that are independent of the articles that appear in our weekly editions. We have published three books. I authored one on weakfish and one on flounder, while Scott wrote a beauty on fluke. All three are available through THE FISHERMAN. Simply look for the ads appearing in the publication and follow through on the instructions. Over the years, FISH TALK has covered almost every species of fish that is important to our area. Check these columns going back to 1977. As far as reel cleaning is concerned, I was not able to find the reference you mentioned in our January issue. Perhaps if you were more specific about author and title, we could track it down. In the meantime, many of us like to wash our reels with warm soapy water and then spray with WD-40 or similar product. Inside we use a high quality reel grease which can be scraped away or rubbed away when cleaning. It has been our experience that reels only become caked with hardened grease when the reel is not cleaned regularly. Dr. W. A. Muller.

WHICH LINE FOR THE SURF?

I know you're busy, so I'll be brief. I was surf fishing at Breezy Point this past fall and met a fellow who was using Gudebrod G.T. coated trolling line. He said it was just as thin as the casting line, but being it was coated he found it to be smoother and he could cast a bit further. I remembered the article you wrote on using trolling line for casting and asked him about loops w while casting and if the line floated and if it stood up to bottom surf

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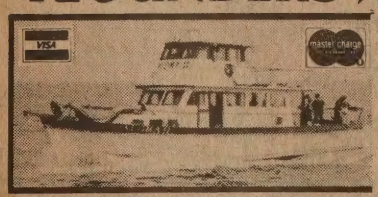

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fishing. He said no problem. It was at night, Doc, so I took his word for it. I did notice, though, his 30 lb. test was thinner than my 20 lb. micron. So, Doc, I'd just like to hear what you think before investing in a spool. *P. Panepinto.*

First let me clarify a misunderstanding. I do not believe that we suggested using trolling line, but rather a fiber line in order to gain some advantages. Of course, years ago that's all we had: linen, dacron, nylon. Monofilament is a great advantage especially because it does not rot and therefore lasts longer. It doesn't burn your thumb on the cast, either (Conventional). However, mono stretches and this can make it difficult to feel a hit or sink a hook—especially at the end of a cast or with a strong cross-wind. Fiber lines stretch less and this gives the angler more control of the first few seconds when fish and fisherman meet. With the exception of Micron brand, most others will be a little wider diameter than the monofilament pound test equivalent. Many local sharpies thus favor the micron. A lot depends on how you fish. Do you need a fiber line instead of mono? Do you do a lot of baitfishing? Do you fish in strong cross winds? Do you use heavy tackle and make titanic casts? If the answers to the above are "no" then maybe you should stick with mono. Dr. W. A. Muller.

INFO NEEDED FOR FIRE ISLAND SURF

Perhaps you could answer a few questions for me. I spend April, May, Sept. and Oct. at Fire Island Pines on Fire Island. I have been surf casting for four years. The fall fishing has been great (though '79 wasn't as good), but no one seems to surf fish in the spring. I have questioned long time fishermen and haven't found out much that is helpful—so to my questions.

1. Do the spring migrations come in close enough to shore?
2. If so, what plugs, bait or rigging?
3. Bottom fishing with clam, eel or...?
4. Fish finder rig with chunks?

I also fish on the bay side in the harbor or at the end of the dock, and have an abundance of live eels and some fluke—occasional weak.

We have a 22' Catalina sailboat which we take to the F.I. Inlet, but I won't take her out alone during the week, so I'm looking for weekday action. Can you help with some answers? A. R. O'Brien.

Ann, there was a time when many South Shore areas were productive in the early spring. However, those were the days when large numbers of small bass migrated northward out of Chesapeake Bay. In those days, surf persons would cast seaworms on a fish finder rig. Today, the early spring South Shore fishing has been slow with the exception of

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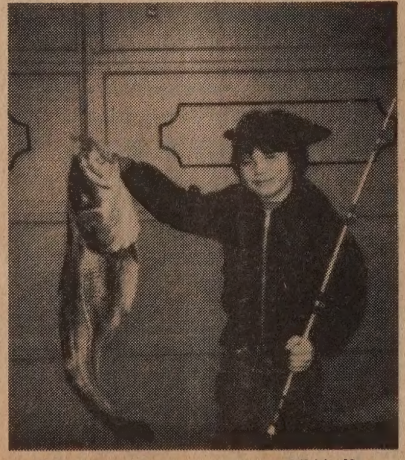

Michael Hecker with a 37½ lb. cod taken aboard the "Capt. Scotty" of Captree on his first partyboat trip.

good weakfishing from the banks of the State Channel well inside the inlet. Usually though, there is a dramatic upturn in the fishing prospects sometime either in late May or June. At that time, some big bass begin to work along the surf and fishermen use mackerel and bunker chunks fished with a fish finder. The most productive time will be at night. Weakfish and blues may also make an appearance then and artificials as well as bait will take these fish. In some years, large schools of small blues will appear and these provide good fun on light tackle. In late June and July almost anything or nothing can happen and it is best to keep abreast of news reports at that time of year. Incidentally, please send in your address so we can send you the other information you requested. Dr. W. A. Muller.

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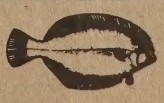

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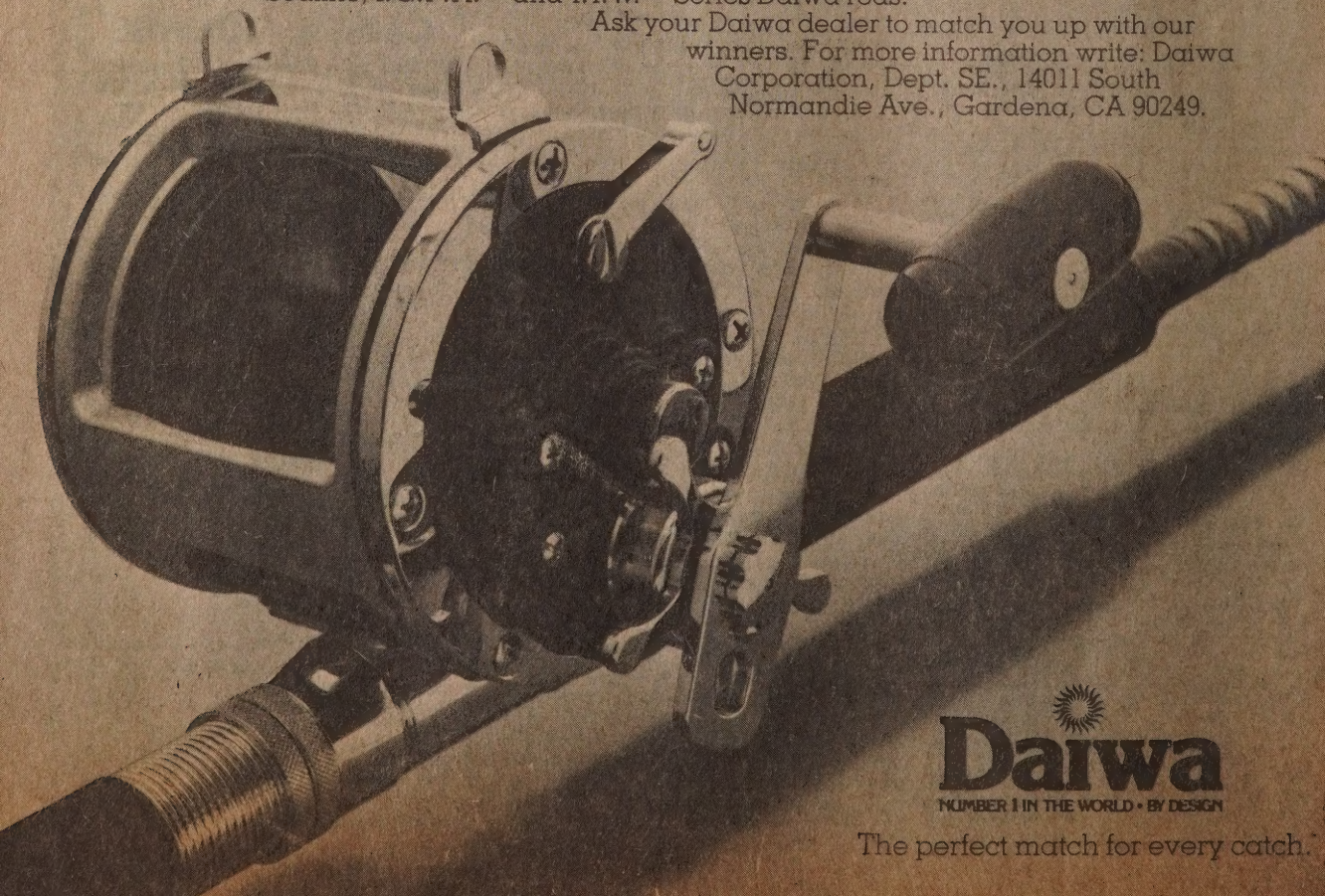

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